

RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 31
March 2017

Keeping carers
informed



Grey-headed flying fox

Tal'ngai by Australian Bat Clinic & Wildlife Trauma Centre

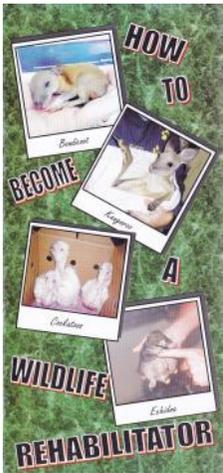
QWRC Products



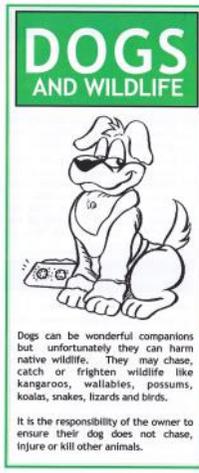
- ◆ Kids
- ◆ Never touch a bat
- ◆ Bats are Important
- ◆ Australian Bat Lyssavirus is preventable
- ◆ Mum and dad
- ◆ Hendra
- ◆ Fruit tree netting
- ◆ Barbed wire



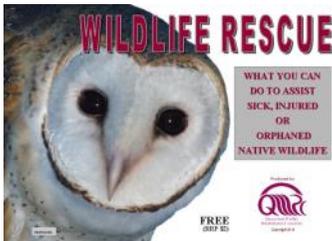
- ◆ Don't cats control rats and mice?
- ◆ Don't cats control snakes?
- ◆ Cats threaten the future survival of most wildlife
- ◆ Are you a responsible cat owner?
- ◆ Do cats harm wildlife?
- ◆ How can I protect cats and wildlife?



- ◆ 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?



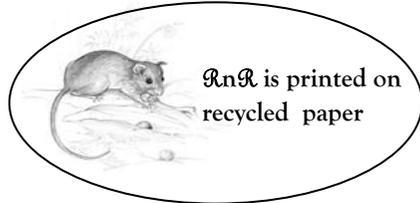
Carcase tags



In this issue:

- Flying fox baby re-united
- Angel's story
- Barbed wire entrapment
- RSPCA wildlife database
- Carer profile – Christine Wynne
- Hand-rearing micro bats
- Cocos Palms
- Bat Crèche
- Flying fox mating season

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**



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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..

Welcome to a hot and dry 2017. Hopefully now some can rewrite that and say they have had some rain. As this goes to print Cyclone Debbie is hovering off the coast so we hope all those in that area have remained safe.

I take this opportunity to remind you all that QWRC has a disaster relief fund so if you suffer loss of your rehabbing facilities due to the cyclone please go to our web site to download the required paperwork. If necessary send us an email to secretary@qwrc.org.au and we will send the forms to you. To allow us to help as many as possible each claim is limited to \$1,000 but that, I am sure, could be a help if you have suffered damage.

The rain we have received has changed a harsh dry, crunchy place to green and lush paddocks with happy trees. Dams that were nearly empty are now nearly full. A wonderful transformation!

We have a bird bath hanging in a tree in our front garden which we try to keep filled. It is wonderful entertainment to watch all the different species of birds as they come in for a drink or a bath. There are the hesitant ones that sit and fluff their feather without really getting wet and those that behave like submarines as they repeatedly travel from one side to the other through the water. They are such a joy to watch. Do you have a bird bath at your place? How many species of birds do you have visiting your place? Do you, like me, use these visitors as a prompt to learn something new about another member or our wonderful wildlife?

QWRC had informed all our members last year that QWRC, along with several other stakeholders, had been invited to

sit on a wildlife advisory committee created by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. There were two meetings of this committee in July 2016 with plans for a further meeting later that year. Unfortunately a date has been set a couple of times only to have it again postponed at the last moment. The latest communication from EHP tells us *“Thank you for your ongoing advice and interest in the remaking of the Nature Conservation Regulations. As you are aware, it was anticipated that a Regulatory Impact Statement would be released in early 2017. However, due to delays in obtaining government approval the timeframe for release has been extended. I am not currently able to confirm a revised timeframe for release and further consultation. Please be assured that we will be in touch when further information becomes available.”* So folks the best we can do is to say ‘we will keep you posted’.

Be sure to read our story about the government fund to RSPCA on page 22. We would like to hear your thoughts and comments please.

Mr. Gerry O’Connor, who set up and maintained our previous web site for many years, sadly lost his battle with cancer at the end of last month. We know he will be sorely missed and offer our condolences to his family.

We hope you enjoy this issue and ask that if you have a desire for information on a particular issue or have an interesting story to share you send your request to us either to secretary@qwrc.org.au or editor@qwrc.org.au

Till next time take care and stay safe.

Annie

Editorial..

Welcome to our latest issue which is focused on baby bats. It is very important that we all plant native trees to help our local wildlife. A good source of plants that should thrive in your local area can be found at landcare/council nurseries. These native plants are normally very reasonably priced too. It is so much easier if you can just forage for your animals every day in your own backyard.

For some ideas of suitable plants for your location check out this fabulous website:

<http://www.floraforfauna.com.au>

As always, it is best to seek advice from other carers so seek out a local group or online chat groups. Carers are always happy to share their knowledge and experience. Refer to page 8 for how to find a list of carer groups. You may also contact your local QWRC representative (refer page 10) for names and phone numbers of other QWRC members in your area.

Wildlife carer groups that are registered charities can refer to page 9 for how to obtain a 'Charity Tick' from the Australian Charities for Not-for-profit Commission.

Spelling correction from last issue:

Explore a healing cream prescribed by WA vet Dr Sarah Brett. Refer to www.redhealer.com.au who says it is great for open wounds.

I can't believe I have been editing this publication for ten years now. My first

issue was No 12, September 2007 so this is my twentieth issue! Perhaps it is time to bring in some new blood so to speak. Please contact me (4156 5382) if you would like further information about what is involved and how you could undertake this role. Alternatively you may wish to help as an assistant editor by seeking out stories and photos.

Articles should to be submitted in Times New Roman 10 pitch. Photos need to be suitable for printing so a minimum of 2MB resolution. Ensure that the option of 'original size' is chosen if available when sending by email as some programs automatically minimize the resolution.

The topic for the next issue will be 'interesting or unusual animals /rescue stories'.

Deadline: 14 July 2017

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

Brochure allocation to members:

Limit of 100 total free per year with the 500gm Post Pak satchel provided by the member - once we receive their Post Pak satchel in the mail with their address on it we can do the mail out. If they request any more than 100 in any calendar year then they are to be sold at half price, 5cents each and they still need to provide the required Post Pak satchel. All brochures can be ordered by any non-member for 10cents each plus postage.

Safety Vests

These have been donated by the Qld Mains Road department in the past and we have been unable to find a new sponsor. See the story on page 21. 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 data form that must be completed and returned before any more are issued. Data is supplied to the Qld Mains Road department.



"New Heat Pad"
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For full details visit our website and Facebook page

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www.warmapet.com.au

Wildlife Carers

(Permit number required for prices)

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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)

Vale to Gerry O'Connor



It is with great sadness that we wish to advise Gerry O'Connor passed away peacefully at Proserpine Hospital on Friday 27th January 2017.

Gerry was one of our Fauna Rescue Whitsundays (FRW) original members, joining us in June 2001 and had an undying love for all wildlife but in particular his wallabies. Not only did Gerry care for wallabies and possums in the early days, he also served on the FRW committee, assisted with fundraising, working bees, attended workshops and set up and maintained our website.

Gerry was involved in Qld Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (QWRC), along with my Dad (Derek Webb), from its first telephone conference many years ago. He believed in a united voice for wildlife and supporting all carers to help our wildlife. He remained a member and went on to set up our website and chat forum. I am glad he got to see the new look website which he thought was fabulous.

Gerry also set up several websites and chat groups for other wildlife groups and cancer support. He was also involved with our local cancer support group in Proserpine and religiously did the Relay for Life every year.

Gerry was my Dad's best mate and also my mentor and one of my best friends. I will miss our coffees under my veranda, wildlife discussions and your stories of your wallabies Gerry, but I know you are now pain free and probably sitting on a veranda somewhere else enjoying a glass of Chardonnay with Dad. As Gerry and Dad used to say "It's 5 O'Clock somewhere", they even had matching shirts to prove it, which they would both wear on special occasions.

Our sincerest condolences to Gerry's friends and family, especially to his daughters Dani and Nicki .

Jacqui Webb

Barbed Wire Entrapment

Many species of wildlife become trapped on barbed wire fences each year but Flying-foxes are by far one of the most affected species.



As mother Flying-foxes carry their single baby tucked up and attached to a nipple deep in their wing pit for the first four or five weeks of life, Ebony was trapped with her mother on the fence.

Fortunately, a passer by called Ebony and her mother into our rescue service and although Ebony's mother was so badly injured that she had to be humanely euthanased, Ebony received a second chance and she was hand-raised and soft released back to the wild.

Any Flying-fox by itself through the day is in trouble. Don't touch but please contact your nearest wildlife rescue organisation urgently.

Sadly, Miss Ebony and her mother were trapped on a barbed wire fence that had been erected next to flowering shrubs.

Denise Wade

Check out <http://wildlifefriendlyfencing.com/WFF/Links.html> for lots of ideas and information for wildlife friendly fencing instead of barbed wire.



'Instead of controlling the environment for the benefit of the population perhaps it's time to control the population to allow the survival of the environment'

David Attenborough



This is the ‘Registered Charity Tick’ logo available to eligible charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission.

It is not compulsory to use it but is intended to help the public recognise charities that are registered with ACNC.

For information on how to apply for your charity tick refer to www.acnc.gov.au.

Just a reminder to all groups that to maintain charity status each group must remember to report their activities to the ACNC [Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission] annually and will need to update data about elected persons or contact persons for the group after each AGM; if this reporting is not done then groups could well lose charity status.



**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 annually together with a copy of all membership forms and a total membership list so that an insurance certificate can be issued to them.

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

Your local representatives are:

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

District 2— Wet Tropics/Cairns Marine
VACANT

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
Kim Palmer
Phone: 4658 7216

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

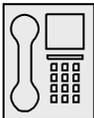
QWRC's patron is Dr Jim Pollock

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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?**

**Please contact a QWRC representative
(see list on page 10) to put you in touch
with other members.**





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]

All newsletters and correspondence will be sent to your email address. Please tick the box below to receive RnR by post.

I wish to receive my RnR 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, just contact secretary@qwrc.org.au if you have misplaced your login details.

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 '



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.

Disclaimer

QWRC accepts no responsibility for any comments made in articles and any queries should be referred to the relevant author.

Hand-rearing Microbats



Freetail microbat © Rebecca Koller

Occasionally orphaned microbats come into care as they are carried by their mother for the first few weeks of life. Once they are able to thermoregulate and are too heavy to carry, they are left in the roost while the mother forages.

Microbats cannot thermoregulate until about 3 – 4 weeks of age. The most common cause of death in the orphaned microbat is failure to keep it an appropriate temperature. Their temperature requirements change nearly daily during their first month of life. In the first week, they require a temperature range of 32-38C and 50-80% humidity. At this stage, they lack fur and an umbilicus is present. From day 7-14, the temperature is reduced to 28-32C. By day 14-21, the temperature is reduced from 28-24C. This progression translates roughly to a drop of 1C every second

day. This temperature range may be provided with accuracy using a Brinsea Incubator. However a cheaper alternative is to house them in a small esky placed inside a larger esky. A heat pad is placed between the two walls of one side of the esky to provide heating over a gradient. Ideally, the heat pad is connected to a thermostat, such as those purchased for reptile tanks. The temperature and humidity are measured using a unit that monitors both.

Orphaned microbats are usually dehydrated upon presentation. They should be rehydrated with oral electrolytes given hourly until they defaecate before feeding is commenced. Untreated dehydration is a common reason for failure to feed. If a microbat has an umbilical cord present on arrival, the food given in the first 24 hours should be Wombaroo Impact and not milk. This will provide a boost of colostrum and mimic the colostrum boost given by the mother, which in placental mammals is high in the first 1-3 days after birth before it declines. If milk is fed before Impact, the ability of the intestines to absorb protective immunoglobulins present in colostrum is stopped.

Continued on page 15

The feeding schedule for orphaned microbats is quite intensive for the first two weeks before they are able to self-feed. Suitable feeding instruments include intravenous catheters or fine paint-brushes that are dipped into milk. The volumes fed at each feed are small and filling rather than gross distension of the stomach is the goal. The milk of microbats is high in protein for rapid growth and fat to provide energy for warmth and movement. Suitable milks include Wombaroo insectivorous bat milk, or at a pinch, Wombaroo Kangaroo > 0.7. Cow's milk replacers such as Divetelact lack sufficient energy, protein and fat for survival.

Lapping as early as possible is encouraged and by the third week, they should be starting to eat mealworms and can be offered Wombaroo Insectivore as a slurry. Toileting is performed after each feed until they are toileting by themselves by week 3-4. Attempts to find natural insects by trapping them in bug-zappers are important to offer before release to help teach young microbats to hunt on the wing. They will be flying by 4-5 weeks and must be in an outside enclosure large enough to help them to become fit for release.

Dr Anne Fowler

Education - Research - Information

<http://www.bushheritage.org.au/>

<http://www.absa.org/pdf/ZoonoticFactSheet.pdf>

http://www.wwf.org.au/news/news/2017/great-barrier-reef-turtles-plagued-by-eye-infections-and-high-levels-of-cobalt#gs.lLr_9CY

<http://www.fnpp.org.au/featured-projects/featured-project-backyard-buddies>

<http://www.treeofcompassion.org.au/animals/animals-in-disasters/>

<http://www.msn.com/en-nz/news/australia/war-on-feral-cats-australia-aims-to-cull-2-million/ar-AA4TAc>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2017/02/16/know-your-quokkas-from-your-quolls-take-our-roodiciously-easy/>

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2017/02/northern-bettongs-rediscovered-in-eureka-moment>

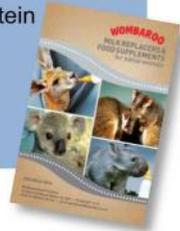
http://bats.org.au/uploads/batflat_drawings.pdf

http://bats.org.au/uploads/resources/BCRQ_COCOS_PALMS_13_flyer.pdf



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- **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.
- **Nutrition for Wildlife**
- **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.

Cocos Palm - No Palm - No Harm

No sleep? Is there poo on everything? It's not the flying foxes that are the problem. It's the palms! Do yourself, our bushland and our bats a favour - remove Cocos Palms from our environment.

WHY WE NEED COCOS PALMS REMOVED AND HOW THEY AFFECT FLYING-FOXES AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

- By poisoning when seeds are green in times of hunger.
- Sticky fruits can cause constipation causing dehydration and death in young animals.
- Toes caught in flower sheath causing self-mutilation and death.
- Whole body or body parts caught in strappy leaves that are easily shredded by claws creating a “cocoon” effect around the animal causing stress and death if not physically removed.
- Juvenile animals can get seeds caught behind their “dog like” canine teeth causing slow death from starvation.
- Premature wearing of teeth due to the hard seed – flying foxes have been known to live for 30 years in captivity but wild animals who appear young are now being rescued with worn, missing or even no teeth
- Since the drought 2006-07 flying-foxes have a learned behaviour to go to the ground to eat dropped fruit from the Cocos Palm. If your dog kills a bat it will continue to kill them, it becomes a great game to catch a bat. This is seriously bad for your dog and veterinary treatment should be sought. It is most often fatal for the bat, this includes any babies carried by mother bats. Protect your dogs from interaction with bats by removing the palm.
- Please rake up the dropped seeds, cut off or cut down Cocos Palms to stop the poo, noise, dog attacks and deaths to bats.
- Palms are a breeding ground for cockroaches. Dogs that eat Cocos seeds can become fatally ill from toxins. Please remove them.
- This South-American palm used to be a popular garden and street tree for its fast growth and tropical look, it is now regarded as an environmental weed by Brisbane City Council & Logan Council due to its rapid spread into bushland and its harmful effect on many species of wildlife.

Extracted from Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc Cocos Palm brochure

Bat Crèche

Bat creche is a vitally important step to prepare hand-raised youngsters for a life in the wild where there are no full feed bowls and water must be sourced from dams and rivers.

Crèche also aims to de-humanise orphans as the last thing we need is for them to think that humans are safe or that we are a source of food.

Once in crèche little batties are not touched or spoken to and food trays, juice, water and browse are delivered with no contact between human and bat.

We also put rehabilitating adults in crèche as they teach our babies proper manners and the ways of their tribe.

Endlessly patient, large adult males endure a plethora of shenanigans from unruly, rampaging teenagers and it is usually the adult girls that pull them into line with a whack to the head or a loud angry screech of condemnation.

Crèche and release protocols are largely uniform across the care groups and they have been developed over the years by the many volunteers who went before us.

As another round of orphans prepare to face the world, we can do much to help them by not erecting barbed wire

fencing, never using any fruit tree netting that you can poke a finger through, by reporting all electrocuted Flying-foxes on power lines to a rescue and restraining your dog or kitty at night.

We can contribute by planting native feed trees and by embracing our wonderful wildlife instead of treating them like alien invaders, a notion which sadly still persists in a minority of the Australian population.

Any Flying-fox by itself through the day is in trouble.as they succumb to paralysis ticks whilst foraging in wild tobacco plants which are an introduced species. Sadly, summer is peak tick season and it is also when Spectacled mums give birth to a single baby.

Hundreds die each year but many more are saved by dedicated volunteers who hand-raise the orphans and release them back to the wild.

Interestingly, all Flying-foxes have a distinct perfume and some species have been blessed with a particularly soft, floral fragrance that is quite intoxicating.

Denise Wade

Old Wildlife Care Groups

QWRC has a list of groups on their website but it is likely that some of the information is no longer valid or needs updating. Please check these groups on www.qwrc.org.au and email: secretary@qwrc.org.au if any need updating, deleting or details of any that are not listed.



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Warehouse: 07 3276 1910

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www.wildlifesupplies.com.au

Carer Profile

Meet ...Christine Wynne from Elliott Heads who is passionate about caring for all types of bats.



I was born in Melbourne and later lived in Canberra for ten years before moving to Elliott Heads, South-east of Bundaberg in Central Queensland.

In my younger days I worked in a variety of occupations including retail sales, window dressing, fashion model, Yellow pages advertising consultant and beauty consultant at David Jones.

In 1990 we moved to Elliott Heads as it had always been my dream to live near the ocean. In 2000, my husband and I were driving home from a wedding when I spotted a possum on the side of the road, she had been hit by a car and there was a tiny live joey in her pouch. We dropped the body into Trish and Greg

Mathers who were carers in Bargara. The next morning Trish called to ask if I would like to become a carer and look after the joey. The joey was only 12gms and did not survive but, the rest as they say “is history”, and I went on to care for many more possums and birds.

In 2004 it became evident that there was a very real need for someone in the Bundaberg region to rescue and rehabilitate Flying foxes and microbats. I had my Lyssavirus shots and my journey with bats began, and what a journey!!

Flying foxes are the most beautiful, intelligent creatures. Most of my rescues involve barbed wire and fruit netting entrapment, and then in birthing season it is the little pups who fall off their mums and are found on the ground or hanging on power line. I have often travelled 200-300km to rescue a bat.

I am well known in the area as “the bat lady”, sadly I’m getting a bit old in the tooth to be called “bat girl”.

I have been President of the Qld Wildlife Carers & Volunteers Assoc Inc for a number of years and I answer all the weird and wonderful rescue phone calls from the public. Lots of baby Kookaburras turn out to be Turtle doves and I would be a millionaire if I had a dollar for all the possums that people want removed from their roof. Sometimes I am nearly driven “Batty” but at the end of the day I am just very happy to be helping our incredible wildlife.

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Overall life is pretty busy, I specialise in bats now, but I still take in possums, birds, bandicoots, kangaroos or whatever and care for them until I can pass them on to another carer.

My husband is very supportive; although he does think that the bats are better fed than he is, they get fruit juice banana smoothie and fruit salad and he gets a frozen microwave meal! What can I tell you, I'm just too busy to cook!

My beautiful daughter, Justine, is also a wildlife carer, but with four children the youngest being just nineteen months she is having a break from animals at the moment.

My gorgeous grandkids also love animals, so they are my little "wildlife warriors" and help me out as much as they can.

Christine Wynne

QWRC Vests

In 2009 QWRC announced that we had obtained sponsorship from the Transport and Main Roads Department [TMR] in the form of high visibility vest complete with the wording 'WILDLIFE RESCUE' on the back.



As each QWRC member had read and completed the required paperwork regarding the risks of working on or near

a road each could be issued with one of these vests. Once this first batch of vest was almost gone TMR were good enough to supply us with another batch for distribution.

When this offer was first put in place it was impossible, or nearly so, to obtain these vests from any source. How things have changed!

We have just a few of these left in stock and have been unable to obtain further funding or sponsorship to provide more for distribution. It is also noted that these are now readily and cheaply available in hardware and bargain stores. QWRC has therefore made the hard decision that once the current stocks are gone, we will no longer offer these vests to members.

We do however strongly encourage all members to carefully read the information we have available in the member's section of our website about risk assessment and working by roads. Your safety is paramount at all times. It is a good idea to print these sheets up and store them for frequent perusal.

Wildlife Funding and RSPCA Database

Keeping wildlife rehabilitators informed is high priority for QWRC and it has come to our attention that Queensland Government funding has been given to the RSPCA Qld for wildlife treatment and care. You can read the press release about this funding at this link:

<http://statements.Qld.gov.au/Statement/2016/11/8/palaszczuk-governments-213-million-rspca-funding-injection>

For those without internet access the gist of this is that; a \$2.13 million Qld Government funding boost will help the RSPCA Qld. \$2 million would directly go to supporting the provision of veterinary services for wildlife at the RSPCA Qld Wildlife Hospital at Wacol and the RSPCA Qld's Eumundi Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and an extra \$132,000 under the Koala Rescue and Rehabilitation grant program would be used to develop a "new and improved" RSPCA Qld wildlife volunteer database.

In early February, with short notice, QWRC received advice from the RSPCA QLD which was passed to our members with emails. Whilst we commend RSPCA Qld for their efforts for wildlife we note that the RSPCA Qld presented their "Shelterbuddy" database to QWRC for possible purchase back in 2009. The proposed database appears to be the Shelterbuddy program revamped.

Several QWRC councillors tried to join the RSPCA Qld training session via the internet but due to RSPCA Qld technical problems were unsuccessful. Here is the YouTube link to that hour long session

which we feel has poor visual and audio quality:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdFgI00SdBw&feature=youtu.be>

It is discriminatory and inequitable to read that all the benefit of this money is limited to carers able to access the Wacol and Eumundi facilities in the South-east Qld. There has been no consideration for the thousands of wildlife carers throughout Queensland who have no access to any RSPCA Qld facility. Where is the funding for those with often greater demands on their services and increased costs as a result of drought, distances travelled to and from rescues, and medical assistance and transportation costs associated with rescues?

Many wildlife rehabbers are not associated with the RSPCA Qld in any way. Having the RSPCA Qld call wildlife groups or carers to do the rescuing does not constitute the RSPCA Qld being the rescuer or rehabilitator. Every wildlife group and permitted carer could benefit from direct funding which would help with the costs associated with their needs of fuel, medical costs, rehabilitation equipment and food.

QWRC is very disappointed that we were not consulted in any of this process as we feel we are better able to provide an overview of where carers are located throughout the State. QWRC will leave each member to make their own decision as to whether they use or support the RSPCA Qld database or remain on their wildlife hero list.

Flying Fox Baby Re-united

Something totally amazing happened which left me on a total high and I couldn't stop smiling.....

I got a bat phone call at 6am, a baby boy bat was on the ground at Dan Gleeson park with a very worried mother circling around him. Aaron and I left straight away and got there at 6.15am, the park staff were wonderful and had stayed with baby till we got there. I placed baby in a tree that mum could get to but as the sun was rising so early and it was hot and mum had been circling for a long time, she could not pick him up. Little Dan (I named him) came home with me for the day to have a drink and sleep.

People say that bats are flying vermin, they are so wrong! A mother rat does not care about her children at all unlike a Flying fox. They are very complex creatures and are actually five times more intelligent than a dog. They only have one baby a year for which gestation is six months. If a mother loses her baby she will go into a depression and turn her back to you. When a mother bat drops her baby she will leave the roost before the others and return to the exact spot she dropped her baby. They love their babies

fiercely, just as we do. As evening falls the mothers take their babies to a safe tree (picked by the fathers) to drop their babies off before flying out for the evening. Mum then returns early morning and out of thousands of babies she hears her own and picks him/her up again. I have been caring for bats for over ten years and I have tried a number of times to reunite a baby with its mum but it has never happened to me. This night it did !!!!!

I took baby back to where he was found at 6.15pm knowing that his mum would go back to that spot. I watched the mums start to leave to drop their babies off, (I had hung Dan in a tree to squeak his head off and call for mum) and then I saw a bat circling the tree he was in. She then landed in the tree, climbed down, reached her hand out and scooped up her baby boy then flew to the crèche tree. It was incredible to see and I had been waiting to witness this for many years!

If you read till the end you are now more educated on bats and hope you think of them differently.

Jenelle Gay

Free Will Anyone?

Sadly there has been advice that a number of wildlife carers have passed in recent times. This serves as a reminder to everyone of the importance of having a legal and up-to-date will.

I recently used a free online service called Lawdepot whereby you simply answer lots of prompts which produces

a draft will complete with all the legal jargon for Queensland.. You then check it and print the final version. Two people (over 18 and not beneficiaries) are needed to witness your signature. Your credit card details are requested but you are not charged if you cancel promptly.

Editor

Young Black Flying-fox Rescue

'Hannah', as she was named, was entangled in a fisherman's tackle that had been left dangling in an overhanging branch near the Burrum Heads Beach-front Tourist Park, resulting in a fishing hook firmly embedded in the back of her head/neck area, and also bad tissue damage and bruising from the line being wrapped around her wrist and elbow.

It was a bit of a tricky situation to ensure she didn't fall at all, and risk hitting the rocks or into the ocean! Thankfully it all went smoothly. After emergency vet treatment, which included sedation to safely and painlessly remove the hook and clean the wound thoroughly, 'Hannah' was transferred to

the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital for further specialist treatment. She has since gone out for rehabilitation care with a bat carer. When fully recovered, she will be released back to the wild, to carry on with the important work of pollinating and fertilising trees! The fishing line left behind has since been cut down and removed, thanks to the caravan park owners following up with the local council.

**** Please remember—** only people who are vaccinated, experienced bat rescuers or carers should attempt to handle a bat of any kind. **"No touch = no risk!"**

Natalie Richardson

Flying-fox Mating Season

March heralds the start of Black, Grey-headed and Spectacled flying-fox mating season in Australia when the next generation of little flappers will be conceived. Just to make life interesting, Little red flying-foxes mate and give birth six months out of sync with their larger cousins.

Pumped with hormones and raring to go, mating is a noisy affair with much strident and raucous screeching which doesn't sit well with people living close to a noisy colony!

Following successful mating, the girls prepare for a six month gestation before giving birth to a single baby around October/November. Born fully developed and with eyes open, a baby

flying-fox is promptly tucked up in mums wing pit and it is carried around by its devoted mother for the first four or five weeks of life after which it's parked in a crèche tree with other littlies of a similar age whilst mum goes out to forage.

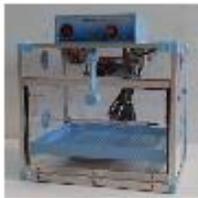
This annual cycle is fairly predictable and it remains a constant for most flying-foxes. However, there are always babies born out of season which accounts for the late orphans that arrive into care as sadly, mother bats die from barbed wire and large aperture netting entrapment, dog attacks, car hits, fatal electrocution on overhead power lines and many other causes all year round.

Denise Wade

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Angel's Story

I was going for a wander through Dan Gleeson Gardens to check up on our beautiful Black flying foxes. I knew that the baby season would soon be in full swing, I thought I'd check up on the mums and make sure there were no injured or orphaned bubs.

I was finishing up my walk with a good feeling that all was ok. Until I went to take a step and something told me to look down. Just in front of my foot was a tiny baby. I gave it a little nudge to see if it was alive and it was. I scooped up baby and turned her over as she was on her belly, to see the poor helpless little darling sucking on her umbilical cord.

I called her Angel, she was adorable and very, very fragile. We estimate she was probably born three weeks early. I wrapped her up, shoved her down my shirt to keep her warm and raced home to assess her. Angel weighed just 46g. I started her on Vytrate straight away

which she happily took. I knew I was in for a tough challenge to keep her alive.

Angel had a couple of bumps and bruises and was suffering from dehydration, other than that she was perfect. Her eyes are only just starting to open and I can see a little glistening eyeball. Her weight is gaining slowly and is now up to 49g. Her bruises and bumps have nearly gone and she is getting stronger every day.

Angel has accompanied me on a holiday to Hervey Bay and we are soaking up the sun and enjoying our bonding time. I am enjoying the challenges nature is throwing at me at the moment and we are looking forward to meeting up with some wildlife carers down here in the Bay. I am loving my time as a Flying fox carer. Plus I have some awesome bat buddies who have helped me get to where I am today.

(photo opposite)

Danelle Plowman

QWRC Wildlife Rescue booklets/brochures

QWRC continues to seek funding for further printing of our very popular Wildlife Rescue booklets.

Groups are invited to have these or the QWRC brochures (refer inside front cover) printed with their own contact details. They can only be printed by Classic Design and Print who have provided the following quotes, freight will be extra:

2,500 Rescue books \$3,140.00 incl GST

5,000 Rescue books \$5,400.00 inc GST

A4 Brochures Dogs/Cats/Bats/Wildlife Rehabilitator

5,000 \$495.00 inc gst

10,000 \$785.00 inc gst

Please contact secretary@qwrc.org.au if your group is interested.



Angel © Danelle Plowman

Tal'ngai - Grey-headed flying fox



This Grey-headed flying fox has been named Tal'ngai Dha'run, which means 'white wing' in the local Yugambeh indigenous dialect. He was among three hundred other juvenile bats saved in a major rescue at Canungra in the Gold Coast hinterland last November. Tal'ngai's pigmentation comes from a rare genetic mutation called leucism. His translucent wings and pink skin make him vulnerable to predators and susceptible to sun damage. He will need to stay in captivity because he has been sunburned already so would not survive out in the wild. It will be up to the Queensland Department of Environment Heritage Protection to decide what happens to him but the clinic would like to keep him as an educational animal.

Tal'ngai © Australian Bat Clinic & Wildlife Trauma Centre



Grey-headed flying fox

Tal'ngai © Australian Bat Clinic & Wildlife Trauma Centre