

RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 32
September 2017

Keeping carers
informed



Kieran Palmer 2016

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?

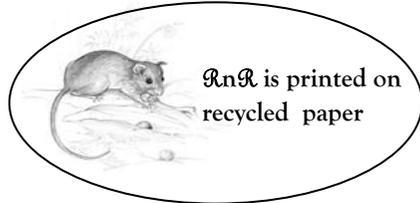
Carcase tags



In this issue:

- Carer profile – Ian/Andrea Gottke
- Cyclone Debbie
- Brush-tailed phascogale
- Herbert’s rock wallaby
- Technology for groups
- Grant Ideas

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 Spring 2017; well it is almost spring as I write to you! I hope you have had a restful, quiet winter and pray that Spring and Summer will continue the trend.

We may have had a fair bit of rain earlier in the year but around our place we could do with a little bit more. That said I would like to be pick when that rain falls please as the mango trees are just coming into flower and I don't want to jeopardise this year's crop.

A reminder that we are now just less than 12 months away from the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference [AWRC]. Keep an eye, and ear, out for info regarding the next one in Sydney, NSW next year while you continue stacking away the pennies in a hope of getting there. I have heard you can fit \$1,000 worth of \$2 coins into a 600ml drink bottle so there is a novel way to save for any special event. If you use social media then make sure you like the AWRC page <https://www.facebook.com/WildConference> where you will be kept up to date on what is happening or you may prefer to check <http://www.awrc.org.au>. Also remember that from their web site you can access the papers from all past conferences too; a real wealth of information on a wide range of wildlife subjects.

All QWRC members in even numbered

districts were recently sent nomination forms for the elections in those districts. Reminders were then in the QWRC Quotes sent out at the end of July. The outcome of the elections will be announced at our AGM which is to be held on Sunday September 24th at the home of our District 11 representative, Eleanor Pollock. If you are planning to join us please let us know via email to secretary@qwrc.org.au or contact your nearest QWRC rep. We hope to have lots of our members join us for this meeting and time to socialise.

Almost daily we see that there are only 'so many' days till Christmas! I will therefore join the happy band and take this opportunity to remind you to add your QWRC membership to your Christmas wish list; what better present could you receive than one with so many other benefits that gives all year long!

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. 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.

Home at our nature refuge in Central Queensland we are still desperately praying for rain. The grass for all our wallaby joeys is getting brown and crunchie. We even had to buy water last week as well although we still have plenty in yard tanks.

These problems are nothing compared to those of the residents of the Whitsundays who endured the wrath of cyclone Debbie. Please read the story from Jacqui Webb on the following pages. Sadly it may take years for the environment and wildlife to recover.

Our carer profiles are Ian and Andrea Gottke who are passionate about Koalas in their area. Their story starts on page 22.

Technology can really help wildlife carers by keeping track of records and by facilitating communication between them. It is also possible to store everything on a cloud based system so that nothing gets lost due to computer crashes. You can read more about this on page 18 thanks to Jodi Jones.

The next Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference dates have just been announced (see page 21). It is being held in Sydney for four days commencing on Monday 2 July 2018 so you all have ten months left to save. Keep an eye out for further announcements on their Facebook page.

I'm now in my twelfth year as editor so 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. You may prefer to contact secretary@qwrc.org.au for further information.

We are always seeking articles, 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 as some email programs automatically minimise the resolution.

Please send us your stories/ photos for the March 2018 issue.

Deadline: 14 January 2018.

Email: editor@qwrc.org.au

or

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

I look forward to hearing from you.

Judy Elliott



The Wrath of Cyclone Debbie

Well it has been an interesting few months thanks to Cyclone Debbie. I think there is not one person in our community who escaped Debbie's wrath, whether it was just garden damage or more severe structural damage to property, not to mention loss of power (for up to two weeks in our case), and just the psychological and physical wear and tear on us all.

We had dramas of course due to power and phones down with our hotline, but Liza (one of our hotline volunteers and fellow facebook administrator) and I managed to communicate with rescuers via facebook and Andrea took on a lot of days on hotline once her power and phone were restored. These two ladies were absolutely amazing, we are very lucky to have them on board. Some of you would have dealt with these ladies when you contacted us with your generous offers of assistance.

With power lines down and roads and creeks cut and/or flooded we were not able to get to many of the injured animals for days and relied on the above communication methods to advise members of the public on what they could do till we were able to get animals into care or to a vet.

Many of our carers still managed to take in and care for animals despite facilities being down and their own properties a mess. I managed to contact those who I thought may have been affected and, on the Saturday after the cyclone, did a run around town to visit most of them as

well as check on and pick up some of the birds. I was just in tears driving around, assessing the destruction. Buildings were trashed, highway signs gone thousands of trees down and those left standing were severely defoliated. The place looked like a war zone!

Several of our carers lost or had damage to enclosures and aviaries. Luckily all animals had been taken inside for shelter so now to try and get all the enclosures back repaired/replaced. I am thankful that the our flight aviary escaped nearly unscathed except for a bit of loose wire which will be covered under our insurance. I cried again, this time tears of happiness, when I saw our new highway sign had held up to the cyclone whilst others had been trashed.

We were lucky enough to get funding of \$10,000 from IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare). For those who do not know of IFAW they are the organisation who respond to and assist animals in cases of emergencies such as bush fires, floods and oil spills. Josey Sharrad, their wildlife campaigner, got on to me almost immediately to offer their assistance which was absolutely wonderful. Many thanks to Josey and IFAW for their support and assistance.

To date this money has covered repairing Proserpine Rock Wallaby Enclosure 1, replacing Portable Proserpine Rock Wallaby Enclosure 2, Chain mesh to repair porta panels, replacing another wallaby enclosure and a total of seven aviaries.

Continued on Page 7

We had lots of people/organisations wanting to donate so just referred them to our website and postal address. My daughter Kiri also set up a GoFundMe page enabling people to share the page and receive donations. To date that site has raised over \$1000.

We also received the generous donation from Mens Shed of \$500 raised at their Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. We have had extra donations through our web page donation site Give Now.

We had a lot of donations posted of first aid supplies, towels, pouches and portacots. Many thanks to North Old Wildlife Care, Sue McWhirter from the NT, Darrie Lisle from Magnetic Island and all the others that have donated items via our PO Box. As for animals in care, well we certainly have seen a lot more than usual for this time of the year with extra wallabies, bats and birds in care.



Greater Frigate bird ©Jacqui Webb

I think one of the saddest was quite a lot of seabirds, particularly Crested Terns that ended up blown to the mainland and either killed or badly injured along with a juvenile Greater Frigate bird and a White-tailed Tropic Bird. We were still seeing starving and injured birds coming into care several weeks after Debbie, particularly the fruit eating doves. Quite a few flying foxes too from barbed wire fences. Many of the birds and bats, in

particular the fruit and nectar eaters are back now but only in small numbers. I have heard though from a very good source that the numbers of bats inland has increased so maybe our locals are still out there.

I have heard many tales of heroism, but I think the one that stands out in my mind is Kate and her daughter who had their Proserpine Rock Wallaby enclosures smashed. They had to carry cages containing the PR wallabies over mountains of fallen trees up Sandy's long driveway to get them into the other enclosure that was still standing at Sandy's, which they had firstly checked on to ensure it was usable.

IFAW sent their photographer Meaghan up to take photos and write a story for them. The link is on our FRW Facebook page. I spent the day running them around to visit some of our carers and see the destruction. They were quite impressed with how our carers and members had rallied together, despite their own personal losses to property to ensure we helped whatever wildlife we could after this devastating natural disaster. Meaghan has since sent through heaps of photos for us to use, which we will try and get up on Facebook and newsletters when we get some time.

Cyclone Damage Recovery is still ongoing. It will be months if not years until this region fully recovers. So many people are still waiting for their houses to be fixed and living in alternative accommodation. Many nesting hollows and food source trees that lots of our wildlife rely on are gone.

Continued on Page 8

However, many of us are back to some sort of normal. I have all my aviaries functioning again, the trees and plants are reshooting and flowering providing food and shelter for our wildlife. Most of our birds have returned to our gardens. We are encouraging our community to plant lots of local native plants and trees. I am also hoping to get our trusty Mens Shed and school kids to build more nesting boxes to get back out into our gardens and properties to help replace those hollows that have been lost.

The good news is that some of our wallabies and birds who came in over the cyclone have survived, some have been released now as conditions have improved for them. Our first bird that came into care, a little Scaly-breasted lorikeet who of course I named Debbie is due for release along with her mates, three of which were also cyclone rescues. We are just awaiting some more trees to start flowering for them.

All in all, we humans are resilient. Our wildlife is resilient and I am amazed that more were not lost. It is extremely heart-warming to know that, as a community, we can survive such a catastrophic event by banding together and supporting each other. It is also heart-warming to know that so many members of our community, not just our wildlife carers, took responsibility for and assisted our wildlife.

Our whole community are all also very thankful to those who gave up their time and energy to travel, some great distances, to come to our aid. Events like this certainly do restore my faith in the human race and increase my awe and respect for Mother Nature.



Jacqui Webb

QWRC Wildlife Rescue booklets/brochures

QWRC continue to seek funding for further printing of their very popular Wildlife Rescue booklets.

Groups are therefore invited to have them or the brochures (refer inside front cover) printed with their own contact details. These can only be printed through QWRC. Classic Design and Print have kindly provided the following quotes, as an indication of cost; remember that to get them to you will be extra:

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

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

DL Brochures Dogs/Cats/Bats/Wildlife Rehabilitator:

2,000 \$365.00 inc gst

5,000 \$472.00 inc gst

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
- QWRC - representing all wildlife rehabilitators

Brochure allocation to members:

Limit of 100 total free per year with either a 500gm Post Pak satchel provided by the member or necessary postage deposited to our account - once we receive the Post Pak satchel with their address on it or the required funds and address we can do the mailout. If more than 100 are requested in any calendar year they will be sold at half price (5cents each) still with the required Post Pak satchel provided. 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. There is an application form on our website. One vest per member while stocks last, for postage costs and availability please contact secretary@qwrc.org.au.

Be sure to read further info on page 11.

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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www.warmapet.com.au

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(Permit number required for prices)

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Or email:

wildlifeproducts@warmapet.com.au

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AWS is a mail order company shipping Australia wide offering an efficient door-to-door service. Friendly assistance, expert advice and low prices. Local pick up available.

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Warehouse: 07 3276 1910

info@wildlifesupplies.com.au

www.wildlifesupplies.com.au

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.



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.



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 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

BANK ACCOUNT:

BSB: 814282

A/C: 30644404

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
Judy Collins
Phone: 4623 1097

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?**

**Please contact a QWRC representative
(see list on page 13) 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]

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'.



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.

Tiny the Planigale

Years ago now we had the most amazing little creature come into care. She had been found when people were digging out their causeway, and feeling sure she was a native animal, they brought her to us. She weighed in at only 4 gms, was only partly furred, and was obviously a baby. She was a Planigale.



Common planigale © Qld Museum

Planigales are a very tiny mammal, in fact, they are marsupials. Fully grown they weigh in at around 7gms. To give you an idea of their small size, a

teaspoon holds around 5gms. Planigales are the third smallest marsupial in the world, and the can have up to ten babies at a time! Can you imagine how small these little babies would be?

Our little wonder we named Tiny. Fully grown she was only about one quarter of the size of a house mouse. Planigales are meat eaters primarily, and Tiny's main diet was mealworms while in care. In the wild they will catch and eat insects, grubs, small animals, they have even been known to jump on the back of a mouse and kill it! Pretty brave for such a little creature!

Planigales have very long noses, much like bandicoots, and are a greyish brown. If you ever get to see one of these majestic little creatures, you are truly blessed!

Trish Mathers

Carer Hints and Tips



Instead of handling sick or injured birds, possums, etc., to clean their carry box., just place a clean one in front of the dirty one, open both doors. If there is a gap then cover with a cloth or towel. Often they will transfer over quite quickly, but if not, just put a treat in the clean one. Remove all food from the dirty one and put fresh food in the new one. I use this method all the time. Works a treat!

Trish Mathers

Technology - Google Drive

The 4 C's of Caring

Connecting, Communication,

Care, Capacity

Wildlife rehabilitators can benefit from developments in technology that improve our capacity to connect, communicate and care for our creatures.

Most carers now have access to internet and mobile services but are not technologically minded. Carers shouldn't be afraid to use technology to help them. There are a couple of free apps that you can use that will allow you to store and communicate information in the CLOUD. This means that if you lose your phone (= lost all your contacts) or computer fails (= lost all your records) you have a space that everything is backed up to. There are several cloud based servers that you can subscribe to for free.

The world of google is wide and vast. If you have ever used the Web you have used google for searches. Many people use Gmail the free Google email server too. Google has also a range of APPS that you can use on your mobile and pc devices that you can download for free.

I would like to introduce the Google Drive App. <https://www.google.com.au/drive/>

Google is a cloud service drive can be easily set up with on your mobile and PC the APP has a clever suite of basic features that allow you to develop and share documents and files like that of a

windows apps like Word, PowerPoint, Access, Excel, contacts and calendars.

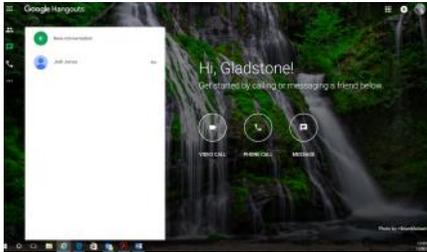


In fact, it is easy to upload and download Google docs to your windows systems. Documents stored in the Drive can be accessed via a secure log on from any device. The Apps are simple to use and there a plenty of help tutorials if you get stuck. You can save a lot of time and emails sharing your work if you are collaborating on reports and grants. You can invite people to collaborate and work with you in the Cloud in a real-time hangout in which you can link via video or voice conference meeting, Google hangouts also has a screen sharing for training presentations and meetings.

For Wildlife groups connecting with your members is often challenging, all too often carers don't engage with each other because of time and distance a lot goes on in the space of a week. Using a hangout for your team creates a non-public private support space for you to sit and chat. Google also offers a Google suite of resources for not for profits with free business productivity Apps, adds, emails, additional storage for your orgs documents and tutorials that can help

Continued on page 19

your group function more efficiently and not lose any important information. <https://www.connectingup.org/>



<https://www.google.com.au/nonprofits/products/>

Groups should also have a close look at the resources available through Connecting up, eligible organisations can benefit from free and heavily discounted software, hardware and marketing resources.

Using digital tools and investing a little time in understanding our evolution in technology through connecting our carers to specialists in real face to face real time and increasing carers capacity to communicate has the potential to save many of our amazing animals.

Jodi Jones

Education - Research - Information

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2017-08-09/bird-deaths-linked-to-common-insecticide/8788286>

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

<https://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.fnpw.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-AAAn4TAe>

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



THE NEXT BEST THING TO MOTHER'S MILK

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- Impact Colostrum Supplement
- Bird Foods for Insectivore, Granivore, Lorieet & Honeyeater
- Reptile Supplement, Small Carnivore Food & High Protein Supplement
- Kangaroo Pellets & Good Oil for Animals
- Latex Teats & Feed Bottles
- Cosy Heat Pad



Get your free copy of the **Wombaroo Wildlife Booklet**

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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.
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AWRC Sydney 2018



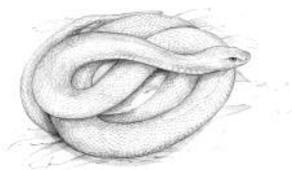
The organising committee for the 2018 conference has been working on the conference for over a year now. We have only just announced the dates and venue, but over the coming weeks we will be announcing more information including details of our keynote speakers (yes, plural!).

The conference will be at the Abercrombie School of Business Auditorium (part of the University of Sydney). The building itself is quite new, ultra-modern, and the auditorium is a state-of-the-art lecture theatre, with stadium seating. The conference will open on Monday July 2 and there will be three days in the venue - with keynote lectures, presentations, panel discussions and an extended poster session. Dinner will be at an amazing venue on the Tuesday evening. The fourth (final) day

will feature a host of options including some outstanding behind-the-scene options, and at least two additional workshops - we are still working on other ideas.

We have organised discounts with two local hotels (so far) and working on more accommodation options. Our aim is to follow the AWRC trend of continuous improvement, so we hope to offer not only the most educational experience so far, but also the most affordable and enjoyable. A call for papers will be issued relatively soon, and registrations will open about six months in advance.

Keep watching the AWRC Facebook page for more announcements and news of some other innovations being introduced in 2018.



Carer Profiles

Meet... Andrea and Ian Gottke from Walkerston



Andrea & Ian have been passionate and dedicated wildlife carers for many years, spending a lot of time caring predominately for macropods, Koalas and more recently birds. Dedicated to the cause, they purchased Padaminka, a lovely 189 acres wildlife refuge near Walkerston which has turned out to be a great base for their volunteer work as wildlife carers and also has an excellent training room.

They joined Fauna Rescue Whitsundays (FRW) in September 2012 and Andrea became the Macropod Species Liaison Officer for several years. They are both currently on the committee, Ian being the current Secretary, Koala Species Liaison Officer and Andrea our Hotline

Coordinator and one of our Facebook Administrators.

Several years ago FRW started to see a higher number of Koalas coming into care, predominately from the Peak Downs Highway and some of the mining areas. One of our members touched bases with Ruth Lewis from Ipswich Koala Protection Society and we organised training sessions on Koala care, both with Ruth, Dr Rebecca Larkin and later Dr Anne Fowler. Ian also organised for Ruth and Rebecca to visit some of our local veterinary surgeries as well as meet with Environmental Officers and Mining staff and surrounding communities to educate on Koalas and other wildlife and to give them a point of contact should they find injured Koalas and other wildlife.

The majority of Koalas in our area were not officially recognised and little research had been done on them.. Little data had been collected on Koala movements or colonies, especially in high risk areas such as the Peak Downs Highway. We figured that if we could get some sort of mapping system in place, identify the major colonies and movements of our Koalas we could share this information with others. This project would help protect our Koalas, their

Continued on page 23

habitat and give us valuable information about the health of our local Koalas and possible release sights for Koalas that came into care. Ian has identified that there are quite a few Koalas on private property as well as areas used for mining.

Our mapping project, designed by Ian, has also led us to be involved with the University of Qld as well as working with Transport & Main Roads (TMR), Fulton Hogan & Ruth Lewis from IKPS regarding wildlife awareness signage on the Peak Downs Highway. We are coming into Koala breeding season and Koalas are on the move more than usual. Last year and again this year TMR and Fulton Hogan have got these signs up and running on the Peak Downs highway.

Andrea and Ian received the Environmental Achievement Award in the 2017 Mackay's Australia Day Awards. Their award nomination outlined their involvement with the establishment of a Koala sightings database and map, with 386 sightings recorded to date. *(see mapping on rear cover)*

FRW is very proud of the Gottkes, their dedication they have shown and work they have done with the Koalas as well as the outstanding mapping system we now have in place that has taken many valuable hours of their time. Their work with the Dept of Environment and Heritage Protection, Ipswich Koala Protection Society, TMR, University of Qld and Aurizon has ensured that our local Koala populations as well as other wildlife in their habitats will be given some protection from harm and also have a point of contact should they come into harm's way.



Tallow weigh-in

Jacqui Webb

Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless.

The Inimitable Brush-tailed Phascogale

A few months ago I had to the dubious pleasure of rearing some Brush-tailed phascogales. Now I have previously reared other carnivorous marsupials such as Antechinus so I assumed they would be very similar...boy was I wrong. These little guys leave Antechinus for dead.



They are extremely cute looking but, don't be deceived, they are frenetic, savage carnivores. I started them on insects such as mealworms and crickets (and they start young, as soon as they start to get fur), and they quickly graduated to moths, grasshoppers and then baby pink mice and rats (dead of course)!!! There seemed to be no satisfying them when it came to food. They were so quick that anything I put in their cage never knew what hit them, and they leave nothing behind (bones included). In fact, sometimes if I was too slow with putting their food in their cage, my fingers became fair game too!

The males have the same life span as the Antechinus, basically eleven months. After they hit sexual maturity and mate with all the females they can find, their immune system crashes and they die. The females can live for up to three

years. The female has eight nipples in the pouch, which is more like a flap of skin than a pouch, and the babies hang off these underneath her. At seven weeks, the young are deposited into a maternal nest. When the female leaves the nest to forage for food, the young cool down and become torpid (inactive), but are warmed when the female returns to the nest every few hours. Mortality of the young is highest during these initial lactation periods. Maternal attendance decreases as the young acquire fur. At twenty weeks of age, the mother does not return to the nest until dawn. Juveniles disperse in mid-summer, with males moving larger distances than females. The females have a home range of twenty to seventy hectares and they can use up to twenty different nest sites.



Despite their ferocity, they really are fascinating little creatures and I would gladly rear them again.

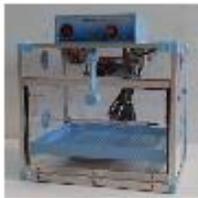
Madonna O'Brien

Ed: Another photo is on the back cover.

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Grant Ideas

If you are an incorporated group, or can get sponsored by one, there are numerous opportunities to apply for grant funding to assist with a myriad of items.

QWCVA (Qld Wildlife Carers and Volunteers Assoc Inc) have been applying for grants for many years now and have been reasonably successful. They have received funding to purchase lots of equipment including humidicribs, heatpads, cages, aviaries, fencing for enclosures, catching nets, training manuals, brochure printing etc. and also wildlife workshop training.

It is a case of searching for available grants making a careful note of closing dates and ensuring that your group is eligible. Sometimes it is necessary to have DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status for instance. Read the guidance and criteria notes very carefully as it is always wise to try and pitch your application request according to their criteria. Sometimes it can be beneficial not to be too greedy and ask for the maximum \$ limit but instead aim for a few smaller amounts spread over different grants.

Just do a google search for grant funding and local Councils also usually have their own grant/donation criteria.

QWCVA's latest success has been for \$13,300 to purchase materials to build one hundred nestboxes and purchase one thousand native trees and shrubs. These will be allocated to members who agreed and signed agreements to be involved. It is vital for carers to plant native trees and shrubs so that flowers and foliage is always available to feed their critters.



Nestboxes are also needed at release sites too and all the local wildlife can benefit as well. It is a good idea if your grant application also has other community groups involved where appropriate. This application included a quote from the local Landcare nursery at a discount rate. A trade quote was received from Bunnings for all the nestbox materials and a local Mens Shed supplied a letter saying they would be happy to construct all the boxes. A local arborist also quoted for erecting all the boxes so that the safety issue was addressed.

Unfortunately it is very rare to find any grants for food supplies (perhaps Brisbane Council) and other expensive items like x-rays/medications. Many carers spend hundred of dollars caring for their animals but that is just something we do for the love of wildlife.

Judy Elliott



This is Herbie, an Herbert's rock wallaby that I had the pleasure of rearing a few months ago. This photo was taken at the release site on the mountain range where he had been found. They are beautiful creatures but exceedingly active jumping onto tables even when quite small so it wasn't long before he was banished to living outside. He started by living in our large snake-proof glider aviary which has a shelter shed and shrubs. I used logs/tree stumps/planks of timber and bales of hay to create a bit of an adventure playground for him to practise jumping. He was allowed out into the enclosure under supervision while he was still so small.

They have a distinctive stripe down their back so can sometimes be confused with the Blackstripe wallaby when they are

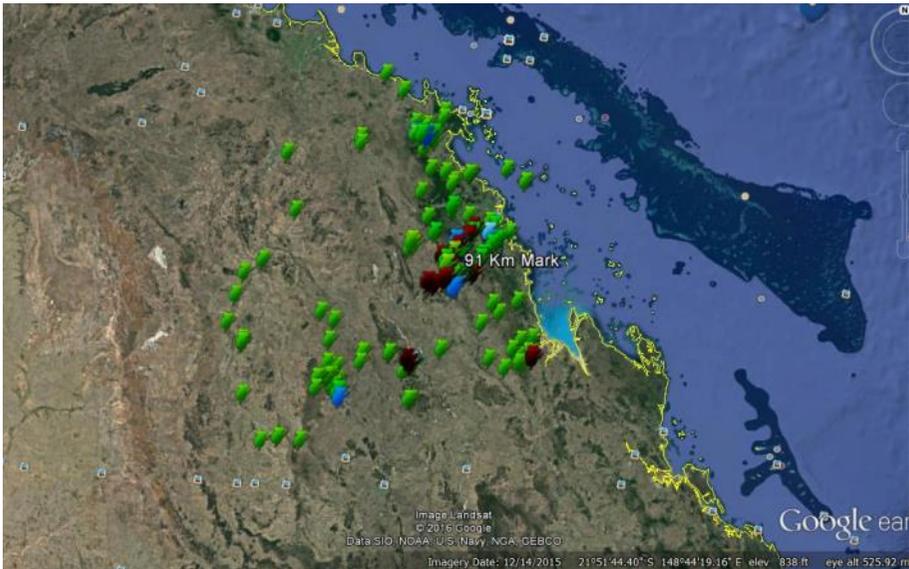
tiny but the long tail is the giveaway. They also have big padded feet to help with their rock climbing.



Judy Elliott



Brush-tailed phascogale © Madonna O' Brien



Koala mapping