

RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 33
March 2018

Keeping carers
informed



Litoria gracilentus—Graceful tree frog

© Kieran Palmer

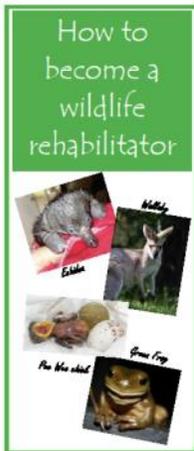
QWRC Products



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



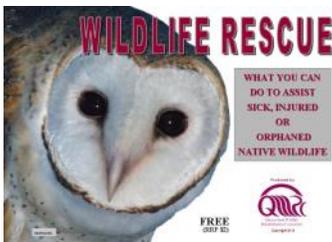
- ◆ Don't cats control rats and mice?
- ◆ Don't cats control snakes?
- ◆ Cats threaten the future survival of most wildlife
- ◆ Are you a responsible cat owner?
- ◆ Do cats harm wildlife?
- ◆ How can I protect cats and wildlife?



- ◆ 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



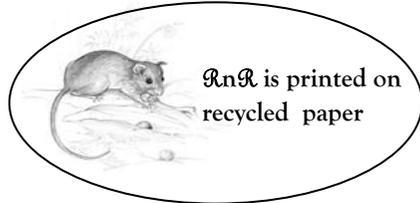
SEE PAGE 8 FOR PRINTING COSTS



In this issue:

- Carer profile – Kim Palmer
- Saving Goldie the Brushtail
- Little the Grey kangaroo
- Figbird Chicks
- Rakali - the water rat
- Springfield Lakes - nestboxes
- War on Plastic Waste

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**



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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..

Well here we are with autumn apparently about to begin! No, don't laugh that is what we were taught at school wasn't it – that summer ends at the end of February and then autumn begins? I know it still feels very much like mid-summer at our place though!

I hope you have all been saving madly and are now working towards booking your place at the conference in Sydney as these conferences are always a great event. Be sure to check out the details on page 22.

A reminder to those of you who live in Brisbane City, Logan City or Townville City Council areas that each of these councils provide a grant process to assist wildlife rehabbers. Please be sure to visit your local council offices or visit their web sites for further details.

It is also beneficial to contact your local politician to ask to be included on their contact list for all grants. This is a free service whereby you can obtain a list of all grant options currently being offered. Alternatively there is The Grants Hub where for a fee you can also gain access to info about available grants.

Be sure to read the great story from volunteers at Springfield Lakes on page 26 and see what they did with funds from a grant. We would love to hear from any wildlife rehabber about your efforts to offer assistance to your local wildlife. Have you received a grant to do good works in your locale? We would love to hear your stories so we can share this with others. You all work so hard and I know at times it seems like it is all for nothing but it is very important that we all keep on and never give up. Tell us your story so we can share it with others

so they too are encouraged to push that little bit harder.

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

WHO AM I?



See answer on page 22

Editorial..

Wow, I'm writing this in the middle of a heatwave which is not good for wildlife or humans. All we can do is drink plenty of water and ensure all our animals in care have access to plenty of fresh clean water. Also provide water for all your wild critters that also desperately need water.

I always go outside with a spotlight before I go to bed every night just to check on our wallaby joeys and gliders. I also look for any Carpet pythons that may be lurking. Last night I spotted the tiniest frog on the edge of a birdbath which I think is probably responsible for the loudest croak ever!

This issue does not have a theme but instead there are articles with a variety of topics. See the story on page 7 detailing the long-haul treatment of a wild Brushtail possum with a serious skin condition. Well-known wildlife vet (now retired) Dr Jim Pollock assisted carer Thalia Broughton with the treatment.

See page 22 for information on the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference being held in Sydney in July. Registration is much cheaper (\$250) than previous years, there are some interesting topics, excursions and a stunning location. Like many carers all my money is spent on wildlife caring so conferences would depend on a lotto win. Papers are always available on their website at a later date.

Please contact me (4156 5382) if you would like information about what is

involved in editing RnR if you think you may be interested in undertaking this role as I would love a break. You may also 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 September 2018 issue.

Deadline: 14 July 2018.

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
- 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.

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.



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Saving Goldie the Brushtail



Goldie prior to treatment - April 2017

At last I have a comprehensive series of photos for Goldie's full treatment of forty doses of Ceclor and Baytril...and follow-up months later. It has been quite a slog. I looked out for her every night, but I suspect she comes infrequently. I think her biggest impediments are a sometimes lurking cat (not sure who it belongs to) and an often lurking larger female brushtail. If there is an owl around, most of the possums will become cautious about their movements.

In any case, the challenge has been informative. Look at the results still achievable when forty treatments are spread over four months (early April to early August)! I am pretty sure this is my most drawn out procedure so far. To think a reasonable result is possible with minimum stress to the possum. She even seems to be quite relaxed about the flash photos now (albeit I am careful not to do it face on or too close). That too is a tricky process, sometimes involving

getting low and contorting myself. To get the combo of her sitting still and not eating is a rare moment. The recent follow-up photos were probably the easiest so far. She was back in a tall plant pot as she was when I first met her as a joey over four years ago on dear long-gone Chucky's back.

Having a look at some blurrier more recent photos, I think she still has a black tooth. I also suspect some permanent scarring where the fur does not grow? Overall I am pleased as her general condition looks good with shiny thick fur and a healthy body weight (and a bulge in her pouch now). I guess I should continue with periodic photos to monitor her situation.



Goldie - November 2017

Thalia Broughton

Carer Hints and Tips

Here is an easy non-messy method of obtaining a urine sample and testing.

Capture a small amount of urine in a cap (*Ed: I use a small medicine measure*) and then withdraw some into a 1ml syringe. Urine test strip is placed on paper towel and then drops of urine can be placed on whichever readings are required, too simple.

I use 1ml syringes for a variety of things. Fill with honey to easily place on wounds when required. Likewise with Betadine solution or anything that is needed in small drops.

Syringes are also used, of course, for feeding lots of different critters that find their way into our care.

Denise McLean

Judy Elliott



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 inc 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



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Snake Catcher put his face too close to the snake and the snake bit him on the face then wrapped around his hands when he tried to remove it.

What is the best help you could offer?

Little - the Grey Kangaroo

As a wildlife carer, native animals are nothing new around our place.

Some animals will come home every afternoon to see what there is to eat. Others, that have been released, just leave and on the odd occasion you might get a glimpse of them. Then there is Little, an Eastern grey kangaroo who came into care as a two kilo joey after her mother was hit by a car, she is now approximately three and a half years old. It was at the time when she would normally have hopped off into the paddock fully released that she and two other Greys got very sick. Her two mates sadly died but, as she was the last one to show any signs of illness, we were able to identify the disease and treat her earlier than the others. A local vet was able to assist and, together with a very experienced macropod carer, we

managed to save Little. It took two weeks of around the clock care and a further four or so until she was well enough to be released again. She formed quite a strong bond with us because she had been so sick and we had to care for her so closely.

Two years on she is now fully released and can come and go as she pleases which she does almost every day. I took this picture of our ten year old son Brandon, who was laying on our verandah, when Little came home, hopped up and flopped down with him. She has such a gentle nature and big personality and does not mind posing for a photo or fifty. *(Ed: See the back cover for this gorgeous photo. The ABC local radio also interviewed Sara and Brandon who uttered the final words "she has a big boyfriend")*.

Sara Witcher



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
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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 .

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.

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.

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

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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.

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Payment options

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Figbird Chick Deaths in Care



Figbird chicks

©Melanie Barsonby

I would like to report some observations from this season from our branch, WIRES Northern Rivers. We have had many Figbird chicks in care this year and the season is still continuing with a tiny nestling coming in recently. As with all chicks, re-uniting is our number one priority, but this is not always possible. Sometimes the chicks have to be in care for a few days or a week before a re-uniting attempt. So we have had lots of opportunity to trial the new diet, and while it has been a great improvement in the survival rate, there has still sadly been some sudden deaths.

We found that the peas, corn, carrots were not readily digested by the younger chicks.

So, in short this is what we have been having the most success with:

Very young nestlings, ie naked- Vetafarm Neocare made up as per instructions and given with 0.5ml syringe a little at a time, allowing for chick to swallow. As chick starts to grow feathers, slowly transition onto next stage which is....

Frozen peas defrosted in boiling water and when cool mash and add approx 1/3

Continued on page 17

volume of Vetafarm insecta Pro. This can be kneaded to make pellets. Also feed native fruits and figs.

When the chicks are feathered and perching they are fed the mashed mix plus defrosted peas and corn (and native fruits, small native figs are ideal) which are left easily accessible in container near where they perch to encourage self feeding.

We are lucky as one of our members has large fruiting fig trees and local Figbirds. As soon as the chicks were picking up, they were soft released and support fed.

The first signs of sickness seems to be pale gape and cold inside mouth. Also a less vigorous head shaking. This has occurred even when the faeces remained normal, which is a bit baffling. If this happens go back to Neocare and oral rehydration such as Spark for at least twenty four hours.

Probiotics seem to play an important role and we are going to see if Synbiotics help.

One other thing I forgot to mention is to

not overfeed the chicks. They keep up the head shaking and it is easy to keep giving food, but best to stop before the food is visible in their throats. Overfeeding tends to overload their digestive systems and cause problems...Sorry that this is pretty vague but we haven't worked out a food/bird-weight ratio yet.

We believe this new diet is best for all frugivores and they do seem to thrive on it.

While this new diet does seem to help I would like to stress it is not the whole solution. We strongly believe that getting them back with their parents is the very best option. The Figbirds here seem to be thriving in general, so if they were losing their chicks in the wild, surely it would affect the population. No-one has done actual counts though! I had an opportunity this year when a local pair of adults started feeding two chicks in care and they took over the role of foster parents. These chicks thrived.

So, still a bit of a mystery but I feel we are on the right track.

Melanie Barsonby

Longstanding Members

QWRC is fourteen years old this year and we think it is fitting to acknowledge those members who have been with us for many years.

14 years - Vicky Dawson, Eleanor Pollock, Annie Saunders (Councillors).

13 years - Judy Elliott, Glendell Appleford (Councillors), Susan Vernon.

12 years - Helen Skippen, Gail Woodward,

11 years - Jim Pollock (Patron), Sharyn Bayard, John Frois, Trish Mathers, Christopher Warner.

10 years - Ruth Hunter, Janet Irvine, Carol Mansfield.

We thank you all for your support and hope that many more will stick with us through the years as we continue *representing wildlife rehabilitators*.

Rakali - the Australian Water Rat

The Rakali or, as it is still more commonly known, the Australian Water Rat is one of Australia's most elusive and underappreciated native species and goes by many different names but my personal favourite is the Little Australian Otter. If anyone has seen these beautiful creatures swimming you cannot help but compare them to the otters found overseas. Rakali are a rodent and come under the family group Muridae with a scientific name of *Hydromys chrysogaster*.

Features such as long sensitive whiskers, partially webbed hind feet, a water repellent coat and small eyes, ears and nostrils which are set high on their heads make them perfectly adapted to an aquatic lifestyle and can be found in both fresh and salt water.

These incredible creatures have been known to dive up to two metres in search of prey and keep their eyes open while they forage. They catch their prey in the mouth and consume it on land, often taking advantage of the same rocks and logs in their territory. They are opportunistic feeders consuming a diet made up of fish, crustaceans, shellfish, aquatic insects, frogs, lizards, bird eggs and chicks as well as turtle eggs in some areas. **They can kill and eat Cane toads without being poisoned.**

The Rakali is the largest of approximately sixty species of rodents found in Australia measuring up to 35cm in length and weighing between 350g-1275g with males being larger. Like most rodents Rakali is not long lived with a life span of between two and four years.

Rakali are wholly protected Australia wide and as a result it is illegal to trap, kill or relocate them. Up until 1943 they were hunted for their pelt. Sadly Rakali are still seen as pests by fisherman, chicken keepers and are often illegally trapped and killed or relocated.

The Rakali has a status of 'Least Concern' on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) which sadly does not lead to this creature getting much in the way of monitoring. The Rakali, being so elusive and intelligent, often avoid traps making them very hard to monitor in the wild. Reports of Rakali sightings can be made to the Platypus Conservancy: <https://platypus.asn.au/report-a-sighting/>

Evidence suggests Rakali numbers have declined in many places in South Eastern Australia since the mid 90's. Rakali are capable of breeding throughout the year and will usually produce two to three litters a year. Females have four nipples and typically raise two-four young with weaning taking place at around a month of age but they remain with their mother for a further few weeks before dispersing.

Two years ago a special lady dubbed 'Granny Ratty' came into my care here in Tasmania and touched a number of people's hearts and we decided to start Water Rat/Rakali Awareness Day on February 16 annually.

Please refer to lots of images and videos of these beautiful animals on the internet.

Cory Young



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Carer Profile

Meet...Kim Palmer from Muttuburra who has a passion for wildlife.



Hi everyone, my name is Kim Palmer and I have been an avid wildlife lover my whole life. I began my caring journey when I was about sixteen when I met my mentor, the amazing Val Dale who lived just north of Brisbane. It was under her guidance I raised my first marsupial, a pinkie Squirrel glider. I was eager to learn and experience all our native wildlife. I was fortunate to look after a huge array of critters including assorted reptiles, echidnas, koalas and many possums and gliders.

About twenty years ago my husband and I moved to Muttuburra in Central Western QLD with two human babies, we then had two more children so this put a hold on any intensive caring, that is until six years when our then fourteen year old son brought home a 1.5kg Eastern grey joey he had found. Since

then joeys have slowly taken over our lives. I will care for any native animal that finds its way to me but joeys are the most common critter in need of care out here. Recently, with the drought, they have really been suffering and the amount coming into care has grown. There are only a few trained carers in the region and the general consensus is the roos are a pest so getting much help or sympathy to their plight is very difficult.

All too often we deal with people who have a negative perception of our native wildlife and hear the horror stories about what our nations icon endure all because they live on the land that humans perceive as theirs. The road kill out here is shocking and, because conditions are so extreme, most animals don't stand a chance of surviving plus the raptors are quick to find any fresh carcass.

Very few carers and distances is a major challenge in helping an animal in need out here. It was only a couple months ago my husband did two trips in less than twenty four hours to pick up two joeys which worked out at roughly five hundred km. There was also a time we had a Wedge tailed eagle come into care after being tumbled by a vehicle, he only needed short term care to recuperate but to release him we drove two hundred km to where he was found.

Over the last couple of years cluster fencing has been going up in the West at an alarming rate which has been affecting many different species particularly kangaroos and emus. This fencing is supposed to be used for wild dog control but it doesn't matter what

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species it is, animals can't migrate like they used to and get stuck where there is no food or water and die. In the case of kangaroos and Emus, the adults can jump the five foot fences but their young can't get through so end up being left behind. We are also finding that where cluster fencing is along both side of the main roads, the wildlife use the roads as corridors which leads to more road kill as they can't escape.

Recently we received a notice from our local council letting residences know that they shouldn't be alarmed if they hear gun shots over the following two weeks as they had DMP to cull the kangaroos that had taken up residence around the town. These kangaroos are surviving as best they can in a very harsh environment; the extreme heat and ongoing drought are having a huge effect on all the wildlife. A lot of these wild kangaroos come onto our place to rest and graze. They also interact with my orphaned joeys, often laying outside near them and letting their young joeys play with them. After phone calls and letters, the cull is on hold for now but, with the

attitude of many in the area, I don't know how long we can put off the inevitable.

I suppose all areas have their challenges when dealing with wildlife so this is just a glimpse of the challenges we face.



This is one of my current Red does. She was two kg when she came into care, found being chased by kids in town, and looked liked she had been without mum for possibly up to two weeks. She was so petrified she was shaking, sucking her wrist constantly, scrawny with a bloated belly but the most beautiful baby. After a



couple of months of ups and downs, fixing one thing which would lead to other problems, she is now a healthy nine kg who turned into a real mumma's girl.

We are now getting her ready to head off to the staging property for eventual release. It is always sad to see them go but at the same time exciting to see them take the next steps.

Kim Palmer

AWRC

Sydney

2018



The Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference series started in Werribee Victoria in 2003, and was held annually until 2008, after which it has been held every second year. It remains the only ongoing national conference dedicated to wildlife rehabilitation. This year the conference is being held in the impressive auditorium of the Abercrombie Business School in Camperdown NSW from July 2 – 4 followed by a day of optional excursions on July 5th.

Keynote speakers include science guru Dr Carl Kruszelnicki, Nature author Tim Low and Environmentalist Dr Carol Booth – known for the landmark Qld court case which stopped the large-scale electrocution of Spectacled Flying-foxes.

While hands-on rehabilitation remains a staple of the conference, AWRC

continues to strive towards higher standards in wildlife rehabilitation, delivering topics as diverse as the positive genetic impact of wildlife rehabilitation on native species, analgesia for wildlife, how to recognise and treat brain injuries, the rehabilitation of microbats and managing conflict and stress for wildlife carers.

Over the fifteen years since its foundation, AWRC has matured into a respected and well-rounded educational experience for wildlife carers – especially those keen to see the Australian wildlife rehabilitation sector elevated to a higher level of professionalism and effectiveness. AWRC credits generous sponsorship for allowing them to slash basic registration down to \$250 – a real boon for cash-strapped wildlife volunteers.



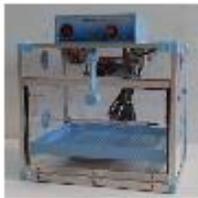
Answer: Yellow-bellied sheath-tailed bat



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War on Plastic Waste

“No-one in their daily life within a period of 10 minutes isn’t touching something that is made of plastic.” The words of Professor **Andrew Holmes**, at University of Melbourne have never rung truer. We are seeing an extraordinary increase in the amount of plastic packaging making their way into our oceans, and typically we haven’t seemed to worry about where this plastic has been going, until it made a deleterious ecological impact which caused us to stand up and notice. Australians use **an estimated 5 billion** plastic bags a year, which equates to over 20 million new bags being used every day. It is estimated that of this plastic, approximately 50 million bags enter the Australian litter stream per annum.

The world recycles a mere **14 % of plastic packaging** and the difference lands up in our oceans, killing sea life and endangering the **food chain** by reacting with industrial chemicals to cause toxic concerns. These tiny particles of plastic or microfibres pose a threat to the food chain as they do not biodegrade and often bind with harmful chemicals, including pesticides and flame retardants, which have harmful effects on plankton and are consumed by fish.

How is Australia leading the Charge with Waste Management?

Over the last few decades, Australia has made some thoughtful changes from the top down to promote, monitor and expedite waste management schemes, and with the support of contemporary studies, are moving in the right direction. Here are some of the **schemes** set in place to promote ecologically friendly management of waste:

- Having recycling bins at appropriate locations next to waste bins has helped encourage patrons to recycle in public places.
- Special events have incorporated comprehensive waste recycling systems. A good example is the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games which achieved a record breaking 77 % recovery of total waste.
- Technological advances in waste separation and sorting which has helped the recycling effort to no end. Organic recycling, bio-digestion and composting have also become popular in the effort to go green.

Education has played a major role in changing perceptions of the consumer culture of Australia and furthering environmental causes. There has been numerous industry led initiatives that opened up the realm of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which encourages industries to focus on the environmental impact of their factories and their products throughout a life cycle.

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What can we do about it?

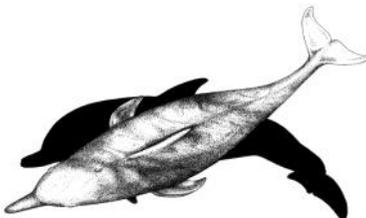
There are things we can do to proactively reduce plastic waste and its subsequent accumulation in landfills. The mantra of *reduce, reuse, recycle* is fast becoming the **solution to the burgeoning waste issue**. By reducing waste, re-using and recycling it is possible to **cut waste by 50%**. It is essential to look for ways to produce, use goods that are responsibly made and do not result in copious waste products. Re-use containers, packaging and waste products wherever you can and recycle the waste material where you can.

Legislation

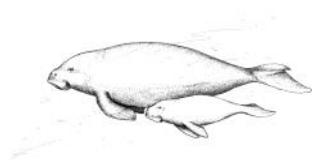
In Australia, there has been encouragement from the local and central government as waste management is legislated and controlled at state level, with municipal councils providing the collection programs. Here are some positive recent legislations that have furthered the cause:

- **Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997** – Defines waste for regulatory purposes and establishes management and licensing requirements for waste.
- **National Packaging Covenant 1999** – Encompasses all levels of the supply chain from producers, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, fillers and brand owners and is based on shared responsibility for waste and recycling.
- **Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Act 2001** - Promotes waste avoidance and resource recovery.
- **Protection of the Environment Operations (Illegal Waste Disposal) Act 2013** – Effectively amends the POEO Act to deal with illegal waste disposal and fraud within this sector.
- **Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation Act 2014** – Provides for contributions to be paid by scheduled waste facilities for each tonne of waste received as well as provisions for complete waste management.

The key to decreasing plastic waste on land and across our oceans is to focus on sustainable practices and to leverage these in our daily lives. The benefits of a well-managed planet are immense. In your home, ensure that purchased goods are environmentally friendly, avoid purchasing unnecessary packaging and reuse where you can, compost your kitchen waste and choose recycled packaging where you can.



Edward Hull, Water Logic



Springfield Lakes Nature Care Nesting Boxes Project

The Springfield Lakes Nature Care Inc recently received a grant from Lend Lease to install fourteen nesting boxes in the White Rock Spring Mountain Conservation Estate. Unfortunately, the area around Springfield and Greenbank was extensively logged up until the 1950s and the area is now considered as regrowth forest, with very few old trees.

Hollows are an integral component of the ecosystem. In South-east Queensland, one hundred and thirty four species of wildlife have been identified as dependent on hollows for survival. Nesting boxes are a suitable artificial measure as they provide shelter from the weather and predators, a secure place to eat and sleep, and safe sites for raising young.

Sadly, in Australia, there are no animals that are able to create tree hollows such as wood peckers. Sometimes cockatoos may chew at decayed wood but most hollows are created by a fungus which eats away at the tree. The creation of hollows is a slow process that can take eighty to three hundred and fifty years, depending on the species. This is why large hollows, suitable for big animals such as possums, cockatoos or owls, are found in older, larger trees.

The group had detailed observation of birdlife that were using the area and noted that birdlife was competing for suitable nesting hollows especially in light of the ever increasing land clearing that was occurring as our suburb grows. The conservation area is adjacent to the Greenbank Military Training Reserve

which is seen as a refuge for wildlife threatened by land clearing, the koala and greater glider. The estate forms part of the Glider corridor that stretches from Karawatha and Larapinta, so it was essential that we included four boxes suitable for Squirrel gliders. Our group felt it was important to provide nesting boxes for other animals that had been sighted, some of which included, a Boobook owl, Pardalotes, Owlet nightjars, parrots, tree creepers and small mammals such as micro bats and possums.

Ipswich City Council has supported and approved this project. On Friday 8th December members of the group, in conjunction with Hollow Log Homes, installed the nesting boxes in suitable trees in the conservation estate bordered by Speckled Circuit and Wanderer Crescent. The Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld will monitor the boxes regularly to determine what wildlife has inhabited the boxes. It is hoped that once the boxes have been occupied that residents might be able see some birdlife such as small parrots, Pale headed rosellas or Owlet nightjars using the nesting boxes when they are walking through the bushland with the aid of binoculars. It is hoped that any unoccupied boxes can be used to re-house injured wildlife.

Our Group can be contacted on info@springfieldLakesNatureCare.org.au or www.facebook.com/SpringfieldLakesNatureCare

Ed: see photos on opposite page



Springfield Lakes Nature Care Inc

Left - right

Luise Manning President (SLNC)

Quentin Rowe (Hollow Log Homes)

Dr David Manning Vice President (SLNC)



Quentin Rowe with parrot box



© Sara Witcher

Brandon Witcher with Little, the Grey kangaroo - story on page 10



© Thalia Broughton

Goldie, the Brushtail possum on mum Chucky's back 2013 - story on page 7