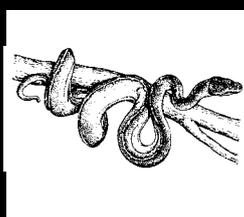
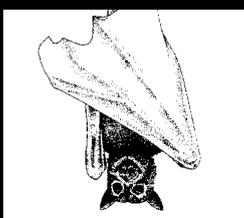
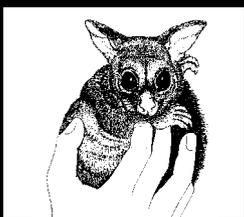
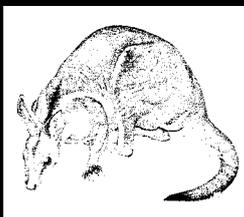


# RnR

A newsletter for wildlife carers  
Issue 8 • July 2005

## Rehabilitate and Release



# Pole position

By Tina Ball

A landmark project using recycled power poles to link habitat for an isolated population of squirrel gliders is underway near Mackay.

Thanks to Ergon Energy, five power poles were erected across 70m of cleared habitat at Padaminka nature refuge to connect two remnant glider habitats.

This is the first time “gliding poles” have been installed to overcome habitat fragmentation.

And so far, the results have been positive.

## The story so far

The trial, which began earlier this year, is an extension of a Masters project by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) extension officer Tina Ball.

The gliding poles are designed to act as surrogates while efforts to revegetate a corridor between habitats takes shape. (This will take some time, as it takes several years for trees to reach a suitable height for the gliders).

It was hoped the squirrel gliders would use them as a corridor to the nearby larger remnant, away from urban areas.

## The trial

The poles are spaced 12m-20m apart and have three PVC pipe refuges staggered near the top of the pole to provide shelter from predators.

Eleven squirrel gliders were released on the poles 26 times (several gliders were released on poles several times).

Cross arms attached to the top of each pole helped gliders to leave the poles.



Several poles were too far apart, which meant the animals had to move along the ground. Fast growing acacias have since been planted in between the poles that are more than 12m apart to prevent gliders from landing on the ground.

Some glided to a tree in the opposite direction to their habitat. In this event, animals were later located in their original habitat.

Two gliders were observed using the poles to return to their habitat. This suggests others also used the poles to return to their habitat.

A glider was also observed to use a PVC pipe refuge on a pole to den.

These trial observations suggest gliding poles with horizontal structures may assist gliding marsupials to traverse open areas between remnants.

## Thank you!

Thank you to landholder Maureen Cooper, Ergon Energy, Central Queensland University and QPWS.

Proudly sponsored by



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## Editorial

As wildlife carers, we all know the smallest fledglings can grow into the greatest birds. And so it has been with Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (QWRC).

From small beginnings in 2003, QWRC has grown to become a fully incorporated body that is realising its aim of representing carer interests at a state level.

I'd like to take this opportunity to give a well-deserved pat on the back and a "thank-you" to those involved in establishing and running this great organisation.

Without the hard work of these people, this project could never have been possible.

The concept of a group to progress carer interests was mooted in 2001. Through the efforts of a dedicated working group comprising care group Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, RSPCA and QPWS, QWRC's steering committee (which now also included care group representatives) had their first meeting in May 2003.

They reached another major milestone in October 2004 when QWRC became fully incorporated.

Since this time, the group has gone from strength to strength. In June 2005, it received a \$10,000 contribution from the EPA for operational costs.

Not prepared to rest on its laurels, it also successfully applied for a

## Who am I?

**I'm big and noisy like my adopted parents  
But I don't look like them at all  
I must find my real parents  
So I head north in the fall**

Congratulations to Shye and Parker Noy of the Gold Coast for correctly answering January's Who am I? quiz. The answer was a masked lapwing.

From small beginnings...  
QWRC has grown

\$11,727 Gaming Benefit Fund Grant and a \$3000 EPA grant to support the National Wildlife Care conference on the Gold Coast later this year.

One of the greatest coups (from RnR's point of view!) is that RACQ has agreed to sponsor this newsletter for the next two years!

The team at QWRC applied for sponsorship and RACQ committed to \$8000 over the next two years to keep RnR going out to carers.

But wait! There's more! The team made submissions on behalf of wildlife carers to the draft koala conservation plan and draft South-East Queensland Regional Plan and is forming a flying fox sub-committee to develop quarantine protocols and guidelines for emergency care of flying fox.

There is no denying that QWRC is making a difference to wildlife care in Queensland.

QPWS is proud to work with QWRC to progress a high-quality wildlife rehabilitation network in Queensland.

From the next edition, RnR will be produced by QWRC. I thank you all for your interest in wildlife care and urge you to get behind QWRC – your statewide wildlife care organisation.

Keep 'em coming!  
Leslie Shirreffs



Who am I? Check out the clues



# Who's life is this anyway?

*Is she going batty? No! Irene says caring is a way of making a difference*

By Irene Robertson

I have been rescuing and caring for wildlife since 1985 and I'm still here!

This shows there must be some element of this game that keeps some of us hanging in there.

Perhaps it's the tears of joy when your baby recovers from a life-threatening injury? Or the high from watching a little one grow into a independent adult?

It certainly isn't the endless piles of washing, cleaning cages and aviaries... not to mention the endless bills.

As a carer you are also facing numerous challenges, such as how you spend your money. That matching handbag and shoes fly out the window as your spending priorities begin to revolve around formulas, cages, aviaries, vet bills etc. And how about the change in your sleeping patterns?

I must make mention at this point that wildlife vets deserve to be bronzed, if not dipped in gold, and saluted. Most of the expert care that selected veterinarians and vet nurses provide to wildlife is at no cost. In short, we couldn't do this without them.

To sum up a life of a wildlife carer, I've put together a check list (right).

So, in conclusion you may ask "why do we do this?"

Because what you do makes a difference. It may not make a difference to the species (although it may for some rare animals), but it does to that animal.

It's also rewarding and, I guess, because we should care about what is happening to our wildlife and our habitats. 

## Date claimer

Don't forget **Threatened Species Day** on 7 September. The EPA is encouraging people to protect Queensland's native species from invasive animals and plants. For more details, turn to page 11!

## Tell-tale signs you're a wildlife carer!

- You sleep lightly, on your back, without turning over, as you have one or two furless little babies sleeping on your chest.
- You own a four-bedroom house but you sleep on the sofa because the house is filled with baskets and small cages.
- You have to look carefully at what you are pulling out of the freezer for dinner in case you mix it up with the frozen mice, animal food and little bodies of animals that didn't make it.
- The only opportunity to read a newspaper is when you are in the aviary putting a fresh daily layer on the ground.
- Shopping trips, a night out or going to the cinema are a thing of the past as they take longer than hungry animals can wait.
- The trees in the garden become the most important point of sale when buying a house. Or when buying a car, the selling point is its capacity to fit animal cages.
- Your shopping trolley is full and hardly any of it is for you.
- Anti-bacterial scrubbing liquid has replaced perfumed soaps.
- You can understand the vet's most technical terminology.
- You go to work looking like something the cat dragged in because you were up all night caring for the orphaned baby of the animal that the cat did drag in.
- Your fridge is full of medications that are not for humans and you have a sharps container.

# Return of the bat babies

By Jenny MacLean

'Flying the bats to safety' was the headline for the last *R&R* magazine.

It told the story of tick paralysis affecting large numbers of spectacled flying foxes at two colonies on the Atherton Tablelands.

Ninety-two spectacled flying fox orphans were airlifted to Brisbane and 25 to Rockhampton in November 2004.

Another 50 were transported by road to Townsville.

Bat Rescue Inc co-ordinated the rescue effort from the Brisbane end, finding homes, keeping track of the bubs, and then finally organising their return.

The orphans did well with their southern carers. (While four died (three in Brisbane and one in Rockhampton), we felt this was not unusual under the circumstances.)

There were some problems with mite infestations and slimy wing that were controlled with treatment under vet supervision.

## Coming home

For their trip south, the bubs were nappy-wrapped and lying down. However, for their journey home they needed to be hanging in individual compartments within a crate.

Four plastic crates were separated into six compartments with shade cloth, plastic mesh and other materials.

Another four timber crates were divided into four compartments.

Australian Air Express staff in Cairns and Brisbane were quite excited to see the bubs returning.

We found that those bubs creched before their trip back north adjusted best to the return.



## The release

All were held for a minimum of two weeks in our large flight cage at Tolga Bat Hospital before being taken to the release cage out at the colony.

The release cage at Tolga Scrub is a large, metal mesh dog crate that is winched into the canopy. It has "verandahs" so that bubs can hang away from the side of the cage.

The cage held between 10 and 15 bubs at a time and they were winched down each day for feeding. Each group was held for three days, and then fed on the outside of the cage so that the new group could go inside.

This process continued, using two cages, until all were being support-fed outside. Once this had occurred, the cage became a feeding point only.

We needed to feed 270 orphans with a minimum of competition occurring. Food was hung outside, inside and underneath the cage.

A rope was also suspended between the two cages to provide further feeding space.

At the end of April we were still feeding the bubs a small amount twice a week. This has changed to once a week.

We still get about 100 orphans returning, and many will come down to the cage while we are putting out the food.



## Wrap-up

From this experience, a set of operational guidelines will be drafted and submitted to Council for consideration in the next few months.

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council will be the body we consult should such a rescue effort be needed again.



# A terrific Pacific baza

By Sandy Cleeland

Late one January afternoon, a ute rattled up my drive. To my amazement, inside was the 11-year-old nephew of my neighbour, Tim, with a bird of prey sitting on his hand.

Tim and his father had found the bird sitting on the ground near a big gum tree, under attack from other birds. Tim picked it up and brought it to me.

I looked it up in *The Complete Book of Australian Birds* and discovered it was a male Pacific baza.

I put "Baz" (right) on a stick over my laundry basket in the laundry then phoned Jacqui Webb from Fauna Rescue of Qld Inc.

I had no cage to keep him in as I had four figbirds and a lorikeet in my cage. The ideal situation was a cage that had wooden slats so the wing feathers wouldn't get damaged. Unfortunately nothing like that exists here in Proserpine.

I'm not sure where I was supposed to keep Baz but I made do, taking him down to my wallaby compound on his basket and spacing chairs, a towel rail and an old gate around him so he could flutter from one to another exercising his wings.

He fed on insects that I caught, mince, grubby things that I bred, chicken bits and the odd prawn (he squealed with delight when I gave them to him). He was so gentle picking things from my hand when I fed him.

I lined the plastic laundry basket with folded newspaper to make it easier to clean, but I found Pacific baza's do projectile poos.

I assume this is what he would have done in his own nest so he wouldn't foul it.

He spent nights in the bathroom where there was a lot more room for him and I only had to clean the mess out of the bath.

He did well in the laundry/bathroom with daily sorties out to the wallaby compound.

Baz decided the compound fence was not far enough for him so he flew up into a tree about 10m up.

I noticed a kookaburra eyeing him off. The kookaburra started calling his family and before long the kooks started to attack him in pairs.

I was distraught.

They forced him down the block; I couldn't see him but the laugh of the kookaburras gave some ideas of his location. I spent three hours walking through the bush and eventually spied a kookaburra with feathers in his mouth.

I found Baza sitting on a low branch. I picked him up and he turned over in my shirt with his legs in the air.



I couldn't see any blood, so I think the kookaburras just gave him a rough time.

He had a few grazes under his wings that I treated with Betadine.

Baz had another go in the big bad world, this time flying off as I was taking him down the stairs for his daily constitution.

After a while I got a phone call from my neighbour, Helen. Much to everyone's amazement Baz had just flown straight in to her home.

I arrived to find Baz perched on a hand. I popped him in the car and brought him home.

I phoned Peter Sykes from QPWS to ask for help. In retrospect I should have phoned Peter straight away as he would have sorted things out for me.

Peter organised that I take dear Baz to Dorothy Spooner from the Australian Wildlife Rescue Service near Mackay as she has a large, department-approved aviary.

Baz has since been released successfully by Dorothy.

He was an absolute delight and I hope we soon will have the proper facilities to raise and release these beautiful birds up here in the Whitsundays. 

# Getting stuffed ...

## and other jobs of a museum volunteer

By Penelope Hacker (The Gap WildlifeCare)

“Skinning birds – it’s quite easy with a bit of practice...” This was the somewhat alarming response I received when I emailed Dr Steve Van Dyck, Senior Curator of Vertebrates at Queensland Museum, to see if there was anything useful I might be able to do as a volunteer.

I had had quite a bit of contact with Steve over many years as a carer, and when I retired from full-time work I wanted to occupy some of my time in a place where I could learn more about our fascinating wildlife.

### My first day

As I have no science past Year 10 (which was many years ago!), I had not been sure that I would be accepted, and, if I were, I thought that my tasks would be such things as writing labels on jars.

No way! The first day saw me kitted out in lab-coat, armed with scalpel taking the skulls out of native rats that had been preserved in spirit.

This job is necessary for accurate identification, which depends on examination of minute parts of the skull in some cases.

As Heather Janetzki, who manages the mammal and bird collection, said, the main prerequisite is to have a strong stomach. A poorly developed sense of smell helps too!

### You can help

I had thought that only one or two examples of species would be needed, but I discovered that scientists have to study many examples of a species for their variations.

Once when they thought wildlife existed in unlimited numbers, collectors would go out and shoot the animals.

Now the Museum largely relies on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers and the general public to add to the collection. This is done through the discovery of skulls or skeletons, road kills, birds hitting windows and the like.

And this is where carers can help.

For example, I had a squirrel glider that didn’t make it and as there was no record in the collection for my area, she has donated her body to science. Maybe her death will contribute to knowledge of her kind.

Other carers who wish to help should keep accurate records of where the animal came from and when and



*Penny (left) with the false water mouse survey team*

pop it into the freezer before contacting the Museum (phone 07 3840 7715). Even a damaged animal can be useful as it can be made into a skull, skeleton or “study skin” (i.e. stuffed).

This is one of my jobs.

### Whale of a time

Another experience I’ve had involved a trip to Caloundra where a very dead and malodorous juvenile humpback whale had been stranded.

It was valuable despite its state.

Being somewhat too large at 8m to stuff and store as a “skin”, Heather decided to remove the skull. Not as easy as you’d think.



*A false water mouse*

There is great amount of blubber to carve through and it was also extremely heavy to move around.

I was fascinated by a black object, which resembled a double waterbed. It proved to be the tongue, which we sometimes had to stand on (or bounce on) to complete our job.

Finally, about 6 hours later, we triumphantly loaded the skull onto a trailer. To think that I gave up a paid job in front of a nice, clean computer for this!

### Satisfaction

I am most impressed by the way most of the staff are still enthusiastic about and caring of our wildlife, even the often common species such as those I bring in that I am raising.

Some even are, or have been, wildlife carers.

And the best thing is that the major beneficiaries of the research and education are the animals themselves.



## On course

Brisbane's Karen Modra is one of a number of students studying a Certificate III in Native Animal Rehabilitation at Moreton Institute of TAFE.

Currently, she's putting her skills to use and caring for an orphaned red-necked wallaby joey that was picked up by the Redlands Ambulance Wildlife Service.

"I studied with Moreton previously, in another native animal course, and once I found out that a new certificate program was being offered with Moreton [TAFE], I was keen to participate," Karen said.

When found, the six-month-old joey was severely dehydrated and weighed only 670g. Thanks to Karen, he is now tipping the scales at 990g.

The Certificate III in Native Animal Rehabilitation is the first of its kind in Queensland and helps train wildlife carers like Karen.

The course started at the beginning of this year and covers rehabilitating and releasing of injured and orphaned native animals.

For details about the program, contact the TAFE's customer service centre on 1300 657 613 or log on to [www.moreton.tafe.net](http://www.moreton.tafe.net)

Did  
you  
know?



**Daffodils,** *Narcissus*, can cause vomiting and diarrhoea. The bulbs are toxic.

**Rhododendron** leaves and nectar are toxic.

The leaves of ***Agapanthus praecox*** are toxic. The sap will cause severe irritation of the eyes and skin. It will also cause irritation and mouth ulcers if eaten.



*Energex's Assest Manager South Coast Gary Madigan and Senior Capability and Planning Officer Mick Rohan with Bat Rescue representatives Vicky Bresan, Bob James and Jemima Batts-Andersson*

## Promising partnership

Bat Rescue Inc. Gold Coast (BRGC) was formed in 2003 as a local branch of Bat Rescue Inc. on the Sunshine Coast.

Although bat rescues and rehabilitation are an important part of the group's activities, the main focus of the branch is community awareness and education.

Initiatives are designed to promote the ecological importance of flying foxes.

BRGC is currently working on a number of projects, one of the most significant being to have electric power lines modified.

This project involves working closely with Energex's South Coast Hub to identify and rectify trouble spots where flying foxes have been electrocuted.

BRGC has established an excellent working relationship with Energex, which has been very responsive to the group's concerns and quickly acts to rectify locations that BRGC has identified.

Energex has a range of devices aimed at reducing the dangers to wildlife.

These include increasing the spacing between overhead wires so flying foxes cannot contact two wires at once, replacing bare

multiple overhead wires with covered insulated conductor and removing vegetation adjacent to powerlines near roosting and feeding sites.

Over the past two years Energex has spent more than \$100,000 modifying 24 problem sites on the Gold Coast.

Work will be done on another 14 problem sites over the next 12 months or so.

There has been a significant decrease in the number of reported flying fox electrocutions as a result of the modifications.

Energex crew members also check under the wings of electrocuted female flying foxes for young during the spring breeding season.

The company also informs the group of every flying fox electrocution reported to them in the SEQ electricity distribution area.

This information contributes to BRGC's database of information on local flying fox movements and feeding sites.

Energex is to be congratulated for their major contribution to flying fox conservation and Bat Rescue Inc is extremely grateful for their ongoing interest and support.



# National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2005

The Gold Coast, Queensland  
31 August – 2 September

## Venue

This year's conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Surfers Paradise (Formerly Ana Hotel) on Queensland's Gold Coast.

The Holiday Inn is conveniently located in the heart of Surfers Paradise, Australia's premiere holiday destination.

For more information about the venue, visit their website at [www.holidayinn.com.au](http://www.holidayinn.com.au)

## Conference program

The theme of this year's conference is R.E.L.E.A.S.E.

- R - Research
- E - Educate
- L - Liaise
- E - Enthuse
- A - Advance
- S - Share
- E - Evolve

The ultimate aim of wildlife rehabilitation is the release of a fit and well adjusted animal back to the wild.

The success of this endeavour can be much improved if wildlife rehabilitators practice or adopt many of the concepts listed above.

We aim to bring together individuals, both professional and non professional, in an open and friendly atmosphere to listen to and present high quality papers on current topics within the industry.

The format will consist of full day plenary sessions to allow delegates the opportunity to attend all presentations.

## Conference functions

A pre-conference get together is planned on Tuesday 30 August to give everyone a chance to settle in and mingle with the other delegates.

Pre-conference dinner and registration 5:30 pm

# National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2005



Proudly sponsored by



An extended program on Thursday 1 September will include a special evening presentation and informal conference dinner.

Please join us for a fun and entertaining evening!

Conference dinner 6:30 pm

## Accommodation

The Holiday Inn has provided delegates with a special rate of \$145 per room (single or double occupancy).

Rooms can accommodate a roll-away bed for a third person for an additional charge of \$45.

# National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2005

Please contact the Holiday Inn directly for reservations:

Telephone: (07) 5579 1060  
 Toll free: 1800 262 46835  
 Facsimile: (07) 5592 2908  
 Email: res@holidayinnsurfersparadise.com.au

Alternatively, there is a large range of holiday units, motels and backpacker type accommodation in the area (follow the links on the conference website).

## Transport

There are regular flights to Coolangatta or Brisbane airports.

The Holiday Inn can arrange airport transfers for delegates staying at the hotel.

The Gold Coast Transit Center is located a few blocks from the hotel and offers access to bus and rail services. A train runs from Brisbane Airport to the Gold Coast with a bus link to Surfers Paradise.

Undercover parking is complimentary for hotel guests. There are alternative parking options for those commuting daily.

## Trade displays

The venue will include a large area for trade displays where rehabilitators can purchase a variety of goods from companies providing wildlife supplies, equipment and reference material.

There will also be an area set aside for wildlife rescue and care groups to promote their own organisations with static displays.

If you are interested in holding a display at the conference, please contact the organising committee.

## Papers

Anyone interested in presenting a paper (30 to 60 minutes) that promote this year's theme should submit an outline to the organising committee. Papers will be chosen to reflect a broad cross section of wildlife rehabilitation topics.

## Contact details

For further information please visit: [www.nwrc.com.au](http://www.nwrc.com.au)  
 For registration enquiries: [registration@nwrc.com.au](mailto:registration@nwrc.com.au)  
 For venue enquiries: [venue@nwrc.com.au](mailto:venue@nwrc.com.au)  
 For speaker enquiries: [speakers@nwrc.com.au](mailto:speakers@nwrc.com.au)  
 All general enquiries: [enquiries@nwrc.com.au](mailto:enquiries@nwrc.com.au)

Contact the organising committee after hours on 0437 838 293.

Please send completed registration form (below) with cheque or money order or credit card details to:

National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2005  
 PO Box 89  
 WATERFORD WEST QLD 4133

or fax to (07) 5533 8135.

**Registration deadline is Wednesday 17 August.** See page 12 for early bird specials.

## Registration form

First Name

Family Name

Organisation

Address


Phone No/Mobile No.

Email

Registration	By 30 June	By 17 Aug
3 Day	<b>\$220</b>	<b>\$260</b>
Day registration	<b>\$95</b>	<b>\$115</b>

Please indicate day: Wed , Thurs , Fri

Dinners	By 30 June	By 17 Aug
Pre conference (Tues)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$25</b>	<b>\$30</b>
Evening session (Thurs)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$30</b>	<b>\$35</b>

Partners for dinners welcome at above prices. Please indicate number attending in the boxes above.

Dietary requirements (Vegetarian/Vegan etc)

### Method of payment

Cheque or Money order is enclosed

Payment by Credit card \* **\$5**

Please circle- Visa/Mastercard/Bankcard

Exp \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*Payment by credit card will incur a \$5 fee.

TOTAL \$

# Gotta love a plover

By Kate Woodhouse

My day began as normal, starting with a call from a local caravan park with a large male kangaroo trapped on its grounds.

On the way to help I noticed what looked like a pile of rubbish in the middle of a sporting field. Not thinking too much of it, I continued on.

By the time I got there the roo had vanished as mysteriously as he had arrived, so I turned tail and headed home.

One the way I was compelled to stop and pick up the “rubbish” I had seen earlier.

However, as I approached it stood up and walked off!

To my surprise the ‘undercover’ spur-winged plover made no attempt to guard her four precariously placed eggs. She simply stood up, moved off about 10m and just watched me calmly. It was almost as if she knew exactly what I was doing!

After much contemplation (and discussion with Mum) about what to do with the eggs, I decided the risk of predation was too high.

I carefully gathered the eggs, clutching them close to keep them warm and began frantically looking for anyone who could help. My luck was in, but I did get some rather interesting comments...

I recognised a local pigeon and poultry club member selling raffle tickets who, although mystified by why I wanted to hatch plovers, knew of a women with an incubator (thanks Reg).

I went to see if she could help. My luck continued. She had just started a clutch of Indonesian bantams.

We decided that this was the plovers’ best chance, as the plover eggs were almost the same size.

So in they went and exactly 21 days later out popped a clutch of bantams and four spritely little plover chicks. What cuties! I was amazed at how advanced the spotty fluff balls were, more so than chickens.

In a matter of weeks they were out of their large inside box and into their custom-made enclosure, which came complete with makeshift swamp.

After much research, their diet was made up of a mix of Wombaroo insectivore mix, breadcrumbs, mashed hard-boiled egg and a pinch of lucerne. As they grew this changed to pellets and then live insects.



When the quads had mastered flying, the time had come to get ready for release.

I scoured the local area, eventually finding a lush billabong that met all their needs, so it was really time for my babies to wing it on their own.

Although live insects, grubs and the occasional yabbie had become their sole meals in the three to four days prior to release they were “fattened up” with supplementary feeding to give them time to adjust and find good eating spots in their new home.

Despite my slight concern about wing strength, all four flew straight up and spread out. It was a great sight.

Raising these darlings was one of the most enjoyable of experiences and one I’ll never forget!

I would just like to say a big thank-you to the many people out there willing to lend a hand (or incubator) to frantic wildlife volunteers with a bag full of bats, a jumper full of joeys or a pocket full of plovers.

Happy caring! 🦘



# Beer and birds don't mix!

By Deborah Turnbull

The story of Bertie the yellow-tailed black cockatoo began in November last year when he was hit by a beer truck.

Fortunately for Bertie Beer-Truck (right), as he is now called, he did not break any bones.

However, there was plenty of swelling so I administered Metacam (an anti-inflammatory and pain relief drug) until it subsided. He also had twice-daily physiotherapy sessions to stop the shoulder joint from seizing up.

After 48 hours, Bertie was given a supportive wing sling and Torbugesic (a restricted pain relief drug in the same family as morphine) injections twice daily for a few days.

These injections meant I had to take Bertie to the Brighton vet surgery twice a day, a one-hour round trip. Thankfully, I am part of a strong network of local carers and Sue White, Scott Andrews, Fran Sanders chipped in and took on a few extra critters.

Bertie made a speedy recovery, and in just over three weeks he was ready for rehabilitation.

It was decided that Bertie would go to Greg and Megan Tennant's place, as they have a flight aviary and yellow-tails nesting on the property.

Seventy-seven days after coming into care Bertie was released.

Unfortunately, he was recaptured three days later in a neighbour's yard. While he was flying well, it seems he did not have the stamina to keep up with the flock.

He was released again a week later, but was found the next day waiting for Megan and Greg on the verandah.

The third time Bertie was released, he took off like a shot. It was a case of third time lucky, or so we thought...

Bertie turned up two weeks later at a carer's place not far from Megan and Greg. He had been coming down to visit humans.

It decided that Bertie wasn't going to make it in the wild because he had become too humanised.

I took him to the Steve Irwin Conservation Foundation Koala and Wildlife Hospital where he was assessed and declared un-releasable.

Bertie is now in the Queensland Species Management Program, awaiting a zoo home.

In the meantime, he is being well looked after at the koala hospital, not far from the spot where he met the beer truck. 🦘



## Protect our native treasures

### Threatened Species Week (3-9 September)

Threatened Species Week is a time to reflect on the past, learn more about our threatened plants and animals and celebrate current success stories about the ongoing work in the recovery of Queensland's threatened species.

#### Lookout!

The EPA slogan for Threatened Species Week is Be Alert, Be Aware - protecting Queensland's native wildlife from invasive species.

Global trade and communication are directly contributing to the introduction of plants and animals to areas where they do not naturally occur.

These species often thrive and they become invasive.

This process, together with habitat destruction, has been a major cause of extinction of Australian native species in the past few hundred years.

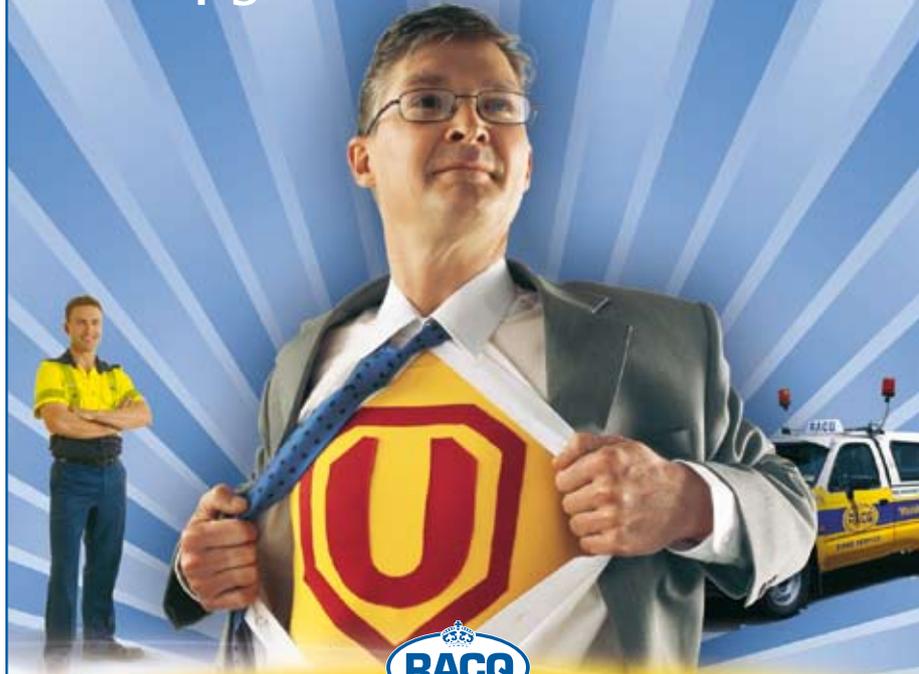
Introduced pest animals place considerable pressure on native plants and animals.

Foxes and feral cats have been implicated in the decline or extinction of at least 17 native species.

#### What can I do?

The EPA is again holding a range of events around Queensland during Threatened Species Week. The details will be posted on the EPA website ([www.epa.qld.gov.au](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au)) in coming weeks.

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## Be the early bird!

Organisers of the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference are extending the early bird registration fees.

To take advantage of this great offer, as well as the special accommodation prices, contact the organisers now!

Contact details are inside this edition of RnR, or you can log on the conference website at [www.nwrc.com.au](http://www.nwrc.com.au).

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn (formerly the ANA Hotel) on the Gold Coast from Wednesday 31 August to 2 September 2005.

*Opinions expressed in RnR are not necessarily those of the Environment Minister, the Environmental Protection Agency or the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.*

### Who Am I?

Please forward your answer to:  
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