

ISSUE 43
MARCH
2023

RnR

REHABILITATE &
RELEASE

KOALA

in trouble

ECHIDNA

of mass destruction

MAGPIES

how to age them

WILDLIFE

symposium

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council



The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (QWRC) is the peak representative organisation for the wildlife rehabilitation industry in Queensland and provides a collective voice for its members.

The council consists of councillors from eleven districts across the state of Queensland.

The primary function of elected councillors is to represent wildlife rehabilitation permit holders and to provide guidance and direction to all parties in accordance with the QWRC Mission Statement.

The QWRC Patron is Dr Jim Pollock OAM, and the Trustees are Glendell Appleford and Nikki Dawson.

Become a Representative
To express interest in becoming a Rep please email the Secretary at secretary@qwrc.org.au

QWRC Meetings
The QWRC Committee meet via Zoom on the 4th Monday of each month.

Membership
Annual membership is AU \$20.00 for 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2023. A new form is required each membership (calendar) year to validate your insurance cover. Applications received after 1 Oct each year expire 31 Dec of the following year.

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Position vacant

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CONTENTS

07. ECHIDNA OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Lana Field cares for an echidna with a mystery illness

10. KOALA IN TROUBLE

Terise Hungerford finds a koala in a tricky garden situation

12. WE ACT ON YOUR BEHALF SINCE 2004

The QWRC Committee outline the work they are involved in

15. ARTIFICIAL DENS HOLD OUT HOPE

A trial program is underway to assist northern quolls

16. WILDLIFE SYMPOSIUM

Our District 11 Rep reviews the 2022 Wildlife Symposium

17. BUILDING COMMUNITY TIES

Bundy Wildlife Rescue puts pen to paper to help save animals

19. JUST HOW OLD IS THAT MAGPIE?

Did you know you can age a magpie by its beak?

20. CARER'S PROFILE – KIM PALMER

Meet QWRC's Chairperson who has some advice for all carers

21. CANE TOADS ON THE IBIS'S MENU

Ibis snack on toxic cane toads – just how do they do it?

22. STAR QUALITY

Learn about a special group of crafters spanning two countries

25. TIPS N TRICKS

An experienced carer shares 3 handy tips n tricks

26. CAPTURE AND CONSTRICT

A carpet python consumes a meal much larger than its mouth

27. EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Have you ordered your 100 free brochures and 100 booklets?

28. LOVERS OR FIGHTERS?

Two snakes entwined. Is romance in the air?

29. TIPS ON BEING INCORPORATED

Stay up to date with the latest regarding Associations



30. WILDLIFE HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Updates for wildlife carers of bats and reptiles

32. DYING TO CROSS THE ROAD

Find out the top 5 animal collision hotspots in Queensland

34. QWRC MEMBER BENEFITS

Discover all of your membership benefits

36. WHAT'S OUT THERE?

Explore training videos, plant ID and volunteer opportunities

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Opinions expressed in the RnR are not necessarily those of the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

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Cover image: Koala, courtesy Terise Hungerford, Wildlife Dalby

Chairperson's Report



Kim Palmer, QWRC Chair

“QWRC were really pleased with how much feedback we received from the survey. We thank you so much for the positive feedback and the fantastic suggestions about how we can improve.”

Dear 2023 QWRC Members,
Welcome to our 1st edition of the RnR for 2023.

As you are all aware by now, QWRC has been extremely successful in securing a couple of significant grants that were submitted in 2022. The educational resources are well on their way with many members already putting them to good use. These Ann Fowler books are jam packed with so much fantastic information that we hope all that received them will be able to put them to good use for years to come. The equipment grant is going to take a lot of organisation, so please be patient as we navigate this huge task. We have started and expect the first orders to be on their way very soon. This support will be a huge benefit to many members and hopefully we will be lucky enough to secure more funding in the future.

It was fantastic to see the DES release another round of funding for rehabilitators. I trust many of you were able to submit an application and hopefully will be successful. With so many rehabilitators applying for these grants it will show the government just how much we are putting into rehabilitating native wildlife and that ongoing support is desperately needed.

QWRC were really pleased with how much feedback we received from the survey. We thank you so much for the positive feedback and the fantastic suggestions about how we can improve. As you can imagine a lot happens in the background of the running of QWRC and it has really highlighted the fact we need to share what is happening with our members more. We will have an action plan in place very soon.

This wet season saw some amazing rain in areas that desperately needed it without causing major ongoing issues. Hopefully this continues and gives much needed relief to the wildlife after such relentless drought conditions in much of the State. Don't forget if you sustain any damages to your rehabilitation facilities due to natural disasters, QWRC have a Natural Disaster Fund you can apply for assistance from.

I would like to thank the dedicated QWRC Committee for all the work they contribute towards the running of QWRC. It isn't always easy to juggle things with our hectic lives, family, work, and animals coming in and out of the revolving front door. So a massive THANK-YOU for your time and expertise.

Stay safe everyone



From the Editor

Roana O'Neill

editor@qwrc.org.au

Terise Hungerford, an experienced wildlife carer with Wildlife Dalby, did not imagine she would be co-ordinating the rescue of a koala from a Hills Hoist when she woke one morning in December last year. While this issue's cover is a graphic reminder of the need for the great work you all do, our on the spot problem solving, sheer grit and determination, as per Terise's story on page 10, can sometimes only get us so far until we require specialist equipment, medical or legislative knowledge. This was reinforced at the Wildlife Symposium attended by Lana Field, QWRC Rep for District 11, where speakers from the RSPCA, Department of Environment and Science (DES), SeaWorld, Wildcare, Australia Zoo and other agencies came together to share the latest on topics such as zoonotic diseases, possum rehabilitation and maximising your visits to the vets. The focus on building better collaboration between carers, vets and animal specialists, will save, in Lana's words, "... time, money and most importantly, the lives of wildlife." To that end we are grateful to our friends at Watergum Community Inc, Darling Range Wildlife Shelter and Terrain NRM for their permission to share information covering cane toad eating ibis's, magpie identification and a collaborative project to help our Northern Quolls.

In this edition we also find out more about QWRC's Chairperson, Kim Palmer, and the wildlife she cares for, share some practical (and cheap) time-saving tips and tricks, highlight the sobering reality of wildlife and vehicle collision hotspots in Queensland, and feature a wonderful group, *STAR – Craft for Australian Wildlife Carers* on page 22, who's members span two countries, and craft beautiful homes for our wildlife, all just for the cost of postage!

A special thank you to Lana Field and Terise Hungerford for their invaluable contributions to this edition in between caring for their menageries. We would love to have your wildlife stories and photos featured in our September edition. Perhaps you have a time saving tip, a handy resource to share, an unusual rescue story or even a question you would like answered? Email it through to us at editor@qwrc.org.au as all contributions are welcome. Happy reading everyone.

Images supplied by Editor, Maggie the Magpie was found as a fledgling on the ground by some caring children and after a stint with the Editor and another wildlife carer has since been released, while Blossum the Brushtail possum, found with her deceased mum, was released last year into the Editor's garden



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Membership

Members receive a newsletter, discounted conference registration fees at the annual conference and access to Awards and scholarships. Head here to find out more about membership fees.

Watch from the sidelines

You can also “Like” them on Facebook, “Follow” them on Linked In, Instagram or Twitter to read their latest information and stay up to date with their activities.

Jobs

Search for job opportunities on the Jobs Board on the AWMS website.

Check out their latest e-newsletter [here](#)

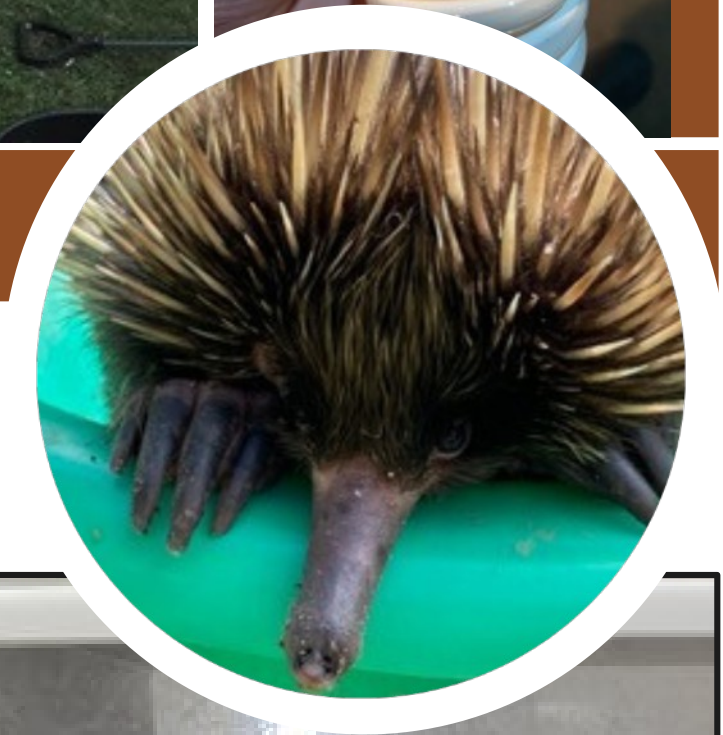
Echidna of MASS DESTRUCTION



Lana Field
QWRC Rep District 11
article and images

EMD - Echidna of Mass Destruction arrived at the RSPCA from North Stradbroke Island with hyperkeratosis, anaemia and raised liver enzymes from an unknown cause. Due to the need for daily medication and weekly check ups, I was asked to care for him as I live near the clinic, making regular check-ups easy. It was an up and down recovery with a bacterial infection developing part way through.

Hyperkeratosis refers to the thickening of the skin's outer layer. This layer is made of a protein called keratin.



EMD continued...

EMD would spend his days outside in a round horse feed thingy with smooth sides, covered with a shade cloth. In it was a shallow amount of soil and mulch. I kept it shallow to prevent escaping. I also sourced a termite mound that I placed in the middle of it for enrichment (cue pest control man having a heart attack here).

At night when he was most active, he was kept inside in a reptile cage where I could administer his medication in his food and make sure he ate it rather than filling it with soil. It also enabled me to collect uncontaminated faecal samples.

This was when EMD was able to live up to his name. He pulled off the bulb covers by snapping the screws and then proceeded to pull out the bulbs. Once he had finished with that, he then started to pull out the stripping around the edge of the cage. The cage had to be locked shut every night to prevent him sliding open the glass doors!

The vets were unable to find a cause for his symptoms but eventually they were happy with his PCR and samples.

It was deemed that if he stayed with me any longer, he would break the scales, the bank and more cages so he was treated with revolution in case there was something on the skin that was missed and taken back to the RSPCA for them to arrange for his transport back to North Straddie.





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Koala

in trouble

Imagine getting up in the morning, opening your back door and the first thing in your line of sight is a Koala sitting in your clothes line.

That is exactly how it was for one Dalby resident. After getting over the shock the resident gave me a call for advice on what to do next. I have to admit, when I arrived and scanned the yard, I did think to myself how Australian this scene is. A chook pen, a ute, an original Hills Hoist clothes line with one of our most unique Australian icons - the Koala.

While the Koala showed no obvious signs of suffering from an injury or health condition, I felt she would not be able to move on safely in her own time due to the lack of trees. The fencing, traffic and dogs were also a cause for concern if she did try to navigate back to where she came from.

We rescued her from the clothes line and took her to a Veterinarian for assessment. After contacting the Department of Environment & Science for advice on how they would like me to proceed with the Koala, we agreed on a safe release site still within the area. Her release went well and I hope her adventures never lead her to similar circumstances again. (continued)



Unusual sightings of Koala are shared on the internet and social media, but that information can also be contributed to the databases that provide insight and no doubt the decision making processes surrounding the conservation of Koala in Queensland. What's behind the photos is the unfortunate positions the Koalas find themselves in due to the many impacts that can be prevented by us, the human.

Our generation is a part of history, and one way you can contribute to the strategies for the Koalas future is to report sightings.

Sightings of sick, injured, orphaned and those who have been found dead can be reported to the RSPCA by calling 1300 264 625.

Terise Hungerford

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council—RnR Magazine



WE ACT ON YOUR BEHALF SINCE 2004!



The *Code of Practice – Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland* was approved in March 2013 by the former Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. **The Code was prepared by the Department of Environment and Science (DES)** in consultation with RSPCA Queensland, **Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (QWRC)**, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAFF) and **wildlife rehabilitators**.

With changes in government and governing body restructures, the liaison between departments and QWRC was inconsistent. In 2021 QWRC revitalised communications with DES by forming a special group of QWRC Committee members to gather at quarterly meetings held with DES operational and compliance management. It is within these meetings that QWRC is able to discuss areas that are directly affecting our unique wildlife and the volunteers of the industry.

To date a number of topics have been discussed. These include; bringing awareness to significant events affecting wildlife and the industry, the request for Queensland to align itself with other states of Australia and ban opera traps* and netting, to share the concerns and impacts large wildlife rehabilitation organisations infiltrating Queensland will impact individual and existing groups, provided feedback on improving the public information available on the DES Living with Wildlife web page through to discussing the concerns regarding the ease of access individuals are able to obtain a wildlife rehabilitation or a damage mitigation permit. More information will be made available to QWRC members through the QWRC members' discussion Facebook page, so please join the page.

*Opera traps used by recreational fishers to catch freshwater crayfish and fish are named due to their similar shape to the Sydney Opera House. These traps are banned in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania due to deaths caused to mammals and reptiles who become trapped inside including platypus, water dragons and rakali (water rats) and for the pollution caused by discarded traps. Editor

For DES it is an opportunity to not only provide insights into the changes that may affect the community, but to give insight into relevant departments, compliance and enforcement processes. QWRC in turn is able to respond to enquiries within their authority to do so, to better educate individuals regarding the departments, legislation and how to comply.

RECENT ACTION TAKEN

Are permit applicants now required to hold a first aid certificate?

The answer is no. The revised rehabilitation permit stated that applicants were to complete a nationally recognised first aid training course and submit their certificate as one of their applications mandatory documents. But it did not state whether it was a requirement for individuals, group or specialist species applicants. QWRC heard the community's confusion and asked DES on your behalf for clarification. In response, DES appreciated QWRC bringing this to their attention. The certificate is a requirement for those that rehabilitate venomous and dangerous snakes, and at the time of creating this issue of RNR for publication, DES advised they will amend the application document to clarify who that mandatory document relates to.

QLD is introducing Codes of Practice for specialist species?

The answer is yes. It is QWRC's understanding that Queensland will be implementing special species Codes of Practice (COP) adopted from that which is already in place within the New South Wales sector. The first being that of the koala. In late 2022 DES provided QWRC and its members an opportunity to submit feedback regarding the proposed COP for koalas whilst in draft format. QWRC provided its members an opportunity to participate and provide feedback. QWRC also telephoned members who were known as permitted koala rehabilitators and the rescuers and transporters for their contribution.

FEEDBACK PROVIDED

#1 After collating all the feedback provided by the QWRC Committee and its members, QWRC responded by providing four points for DES consideration. Please see below.

1. QWRC would like to see added to the QLD COP the New South Wales Wildlife Council (NWC) sector COP Koala section - 8.1.10 *Housing should be designed and/or positioned so the koala cannot see or hear domestic pets.*

The items in the current draft below appear to be targeted at 'contact' and cross contamination only. This in turn can lead the carer to assume that as long as domestic pets do not come in physical contact, it is approved to have domestic pets at their facility?





“...transporting the koala to their local veterinarian places more responsibility on the veterinarian...”

The QWRC community has shared their own personal experiences and complaints provided to them by the general public in attempts to call the RSPCA Hotline for assistance regarding wildlife in general. Will the current communication system be reviewed to improve the human resources to ensure the Hotline is manned by trained operators 24 hours a day?

- It is felt that the wildlife rehabilitation community will remove themselves from rescuing koalas and redirect the community to the Hotline and subsequently, the RSPCA ambulance will be placed under pressure to expand their coverage of areas to accommodate.
- Rural rescuers are reluctant to rescue koalas due to the time and expense of having to transport the koala to the required facility directed by authorities.
- Transporting the koala to their local veterinarian places more responsibility on the veterinarian to hold the koala until authorities communicate and organise collection. It is feared veterinarians will request wildlife rehabilitators do not present koalas for emergency assessment.

#3 The QWRC community has requested that consideration be given to a public database of koala/specialist species permit holders that are made available on the DES website.

#4 The QWRC community requests that the permitted rehabilitator of koalas must reside at the facility during critical, intermediate and pre-release care of a koala.

Your contributions are vital regarding QWRC advocating within the Queensland Wildlife Industry. We understand everyone has a preferred method of communicating so there are multiple ways in which you can contact QWRC committee members. Please update your contact details with QWRC if you are not receiving QWRC emails. Ask your question or share your concerns through the Facebook QWRC members' discussion page. Telephone or text your District Representative or email the QWRC secretary. The more opinions or experiences that are shared the better QWRC is able to identify areas that need addressing with the appropriate departments - contribute so we can advocate on your behalf! **Koala images (edited) courtesy Connie Pinson**



Artificial dens hold out hope for our smallest quoll

Roana O'Neill



The impact of cane toads on our native fauna has been acutely felt by Northern Quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*). The small populations that still exist in the savannah of Far North Queensland have now learned to avoid them.

A number of organisations have come together to create artificial dens at Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Brooklyn Wildlife Reserve, north of the Atherton Tablelands in a bid to increase quoll numbers and reconnect populations.

12 trial dens have been built from concrete pipes, rock and rubble. Using previous research on natural and artificial dens, these new dens aim to replicate the depth, temperature and humidity of a natural den.

Dr Andrew Dennis from Terrain NRM said "If this trial works the lessons learnt could be applied in the Northern Territory and in Western Australia, where there is an ongoing rapid decline. Northern quolls are listed in the top-100 priority threatened species in Australia."

Terrain and Gulf Savannah NRMs and Australian Wildlife Conservancy are working together on the project with the help of Ground Creations who are building the dens. Department Transport & Main Roads with principal construction contractor HSA Group (John Holland, Seymour White and AECOM) for the Bruce Highway, Cairns Southern Access Corridor (Stage 3) Edmonton to Gordonvale project is donating some concrete pipes and mining company EQ Resources is providing rocks and rubble.

Images: Top, S J Bennet, Northern quoll, Perth Zoo, WA, creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en, Top inset (crop), Valeria Silva, Terrain NRM, Bottom left, Evan Rohde, Ground Creations. Permission to use story and images granted.



WILDLIFE SYMPOSIUM

On Saturday, 12th November 2022 my mother and I attended the Wildlife Symposium hosted by the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital in Brisbane.

It was well attended with approximately 100 attendees comprising of representatives from local wildlife care groups, DES, and staff and officials from the SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network.

The SEQ Wildlife Hospital Network developed a MOU in 2017 and continue to work together to collaborate knowledge, data, facilities and case information between Sea World, Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, RSPCA Wildlife Hospital and Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital.

The talks were condensed discussions on each persons area of expertise and covered the following topics:

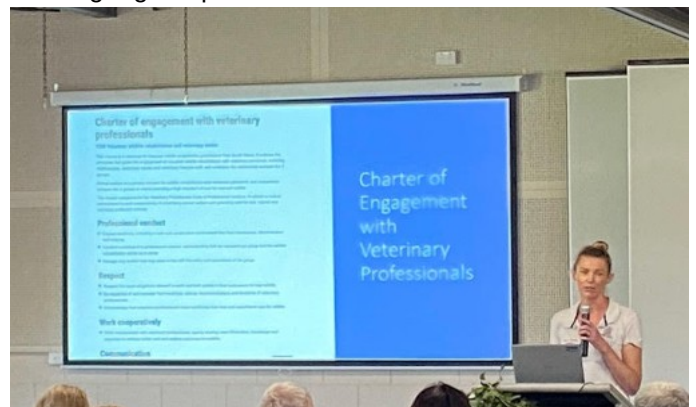
1. The Network and Code of Practice
2. Identification, husbandry and rehab of Sea Birds
3. Maximising value from your vet visit
4. Triaging the wildlife patient
5. Common presentations in urban bird species
6. Chlamydiosis in koalas
7. Koala rehab - key medical and welfare considerations
8. Common presentations in short beaked echidnas
9. Husbandry and rehab in echidnas
10. Important concepts in microbat rehab
11. Common presentations in urban possum species
12. Husbandry and rehab of possums and gliders
13. Common presentations in wild reptiles
14. Zoonotic disease considerations in wildlife rehab
15. Round table discussion - building better collaborations through all phases of wildlife rehab

It was great to hear of new techniques being trialed such as sub-cutting of all microbats before transport to a carer, and how the best way to avoid zoonotic diseases is to not share your mosquitoes or eat poo.

It was great to see all of the groups and hospitals in the area come together for the same outcome which is for the best outcome of the wildlife. Dr Michael Pyne from CWH* mentioned that CWH have a good relationship with the Gold Coast vet clinics in regards to triaging wildlife and the other hospitals in the network are working on policies to emulate this as soon as possible.

The other topic of discussion was the misinformation in the public and belief of some wildlife carers that the RSPCA and others in the hospital network do not care for wildlife and euthanise everything. I can assure carers from a personal view, this is incredibly untrue. I am often in the clinic at the hospital and I see the wards full with animals that are being cared for or are waiting for carers. I am often asked my opinion on the survival outcome of an animal requiring treatment as they would rather give it a chance if possible. In fact, I currently have a 6ft Eastern Brown in care that they were not sure would survive the severity of her injury but they were keen to give her a go due to her pre-injury health. She is healing nicely.

Cooperation between groups and the sharing of knowledge and resources saves time, money and most importantly, the lives of wildlife. It is so good to see that people can see the importance of this issue and are creating a great platform for others to follow.



Lana Field

QWRC REP DISTRICT 11

Sugar glider image courtesy Linda Karlsen, Symposium image courtesy Lana Field
*Currumbin Wildlife Hospital (CWH)

Building community ties

Linda Karlsen, Judy Elliott (District Representative for Area 5) along with several like minded people started Bundy Wildlife Rescue Inc. in Bundaberg, Queensland in April 2020. As President, Linda has worked tirelessly to build a profile in the local region, raise awareness of native wildlife, fundraise and conduct educational activities for the wider community.



When Linda is not manning the rescue phone, co-ordinating volunteers to pick up animals or conducting rescues herself, Linda is busy writing a weekly column for the *Bundaberg Today* newspaper on all things wildlife. As of 8 January 2022 Linda had 88 articles published in the paper which is a huge effort. Linda also runs a weekly raffle at Sugarland Tavern raising much needed funds for Bundy Wildlife Rescue and has been promoting the group on ABC Widebay Radio – well done!

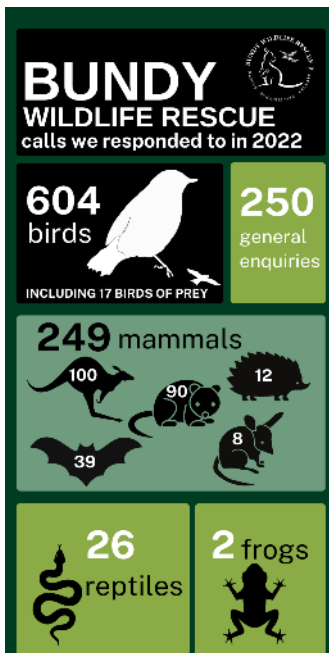


Image above: Linda Karlsen with a rescued brushtail possum

Image far left: Bundy Wildlife Rescue volunteer Cyndie with Linda Karlsen in character in the Kangaroo suit at Sugarland Tavern raising funds for food and medical supplies for the group. While you'll always find Linda at the Tavern each Saturday selling raffle tickets, we can't guarantee she will always be in the suit!

Image left: The number of calls responded to in 2022 by Bundy Wildlife Rescue. Birds and mammals were the two highest groups the team received calls about

Images provided by Bundy Wildlife Rescue

FaunaOzEducation

Dr Anne Fowler has produced 80 – 100 page colour manuals on the husbandry, disease and rehabilitation of various wildlife species.



Titles include:

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

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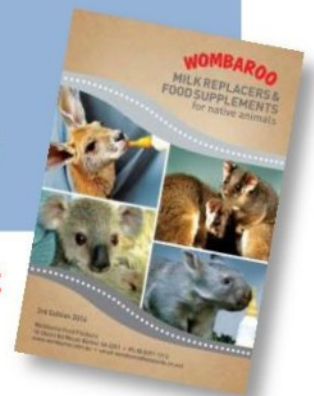


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WOMBAROO

just how old is that magpie? it's all in the beak



Juvenile magpies, less than 1 year old, have an all black beak. Immature magpies, 1 – 2 years old, have a black beak that is going silver in patches, and adult

magpies, 2+ years have silver beaks with a black tip. Thanks to our friends at Darling Range Wildlife Shelter WA for their permission to share this image.

CARER'S PROFILE WITH

KIM PALMER

"...WE SHOULD ALL BE OPEN TO HELPING OUR FELLOW CARERS."

QWRC's Chairperson Kim Palmer describes herself as "determined, compassionate and easygoing". In this Carer's Profile we find out the main species of animal that Kim cares for inbetween looking after pet snakes, her next project and some advice she has for all carers.

How did you get to where you are today?

"I got to know a carer in Brisbane when I was a teen and would help her out, she taught me so much and under her guidance I raised my 1st pinkie squirrel gliders at 15."

What is the essence of what you do?

"Living in remote central western Queensland I don't have the luxury of having many carers close by to share the work load or send off various species to specialist carers, so take in all native wildlife and at times I have had to learn on the go, thankfully I have an awesome network of carers around the state to turn to for advice. Being out west does mean I do a lot of Red Kangaros and have many returned from carers on the coast when well meaning travellers transport them out of the region."

What's the most common species to come into care?

"The 3 largest macropods endemic to the region, Red Kangaroos, Eastern Greys and Wallaroos."

What was the defining moment when you knew you had to do something for our wildlife and conservation?

"Wouldn't say there was a defining moment, more of a life long curiosity, respect and love for wildlife. I was one of those kids who would go to places like Dreamworld and want to stay and look at the animal displays or the walk through with the kangaroos etc."

How can members and the public help?

"Network, we should all be open to helping our fellow carers. The public need to support their local carers."

What do you hope to achieve and by when?

"Immediate goal at the moment is we are having to set up a new soft release facility, hoping to have it ready for the current lot ready to go by mid year."

Can you recommend resources to other carers?

"Social media has been fantastic in putting carers in contact with each other but it can be hard weeding out false information. [WildTalk](#) is an essential organisation that all carers should utilise if they are struggling."

What advice would you like to give to carers?

"These are wild animals and need to be raised tough to survive, but animals like joeys also thrive on love and attention, there is a fine balance between the two, so getting to know each individual is necessary as each one is different. Keeping predator and prey species separate is vital also, so many people get involved in wildlife rehab that don't think about the effect the family's pets will have on the wildlife once released. Always be kind to your vets and vet nurses, they have a very challenging job and many willingly help sick and injured wildlife free or at discounted rates."

Editor: you can follow Kim on Facebook at "Western QLD Wildlife Rehabilitation", and see some of Kim's great wildlife photos and videos





cane toads on the ibis's menu

Did you know that Ibis' have learned how to safely eat cane toads?

These underrated birds are a key player in the evolution of Australia's native species to coexist with and control the invasive cane toad.

When cane toads are threatened by predators, they excrete toxin from the paratoid glands on the back of their neck to poison their attacker and if they are stressed enough, they will empty the glands through this process.

Ibis have learned to use the cane toads own defence strategy against them. Ibis will pick up cane toads and fling them about, causing them to become stressed and expel all their toxin. The birds then rinse the toads off in water, or wipe them in the wet grass to remove the poison, before swallowing them whole!

It's very encouraging to see that native animals are learning how to cope with cane toads. One day, we are confident that native animals will be able to manage cane toads on their own. Until then, we still need to give them a helping hand through toad busting activities.

The 'stress and wash' method of eating cane toads has also recently been observed in Cattle egrets, Purple swamphens and Moorhens.

This article and main image was reproduced with permission from Watergum Community Inc.

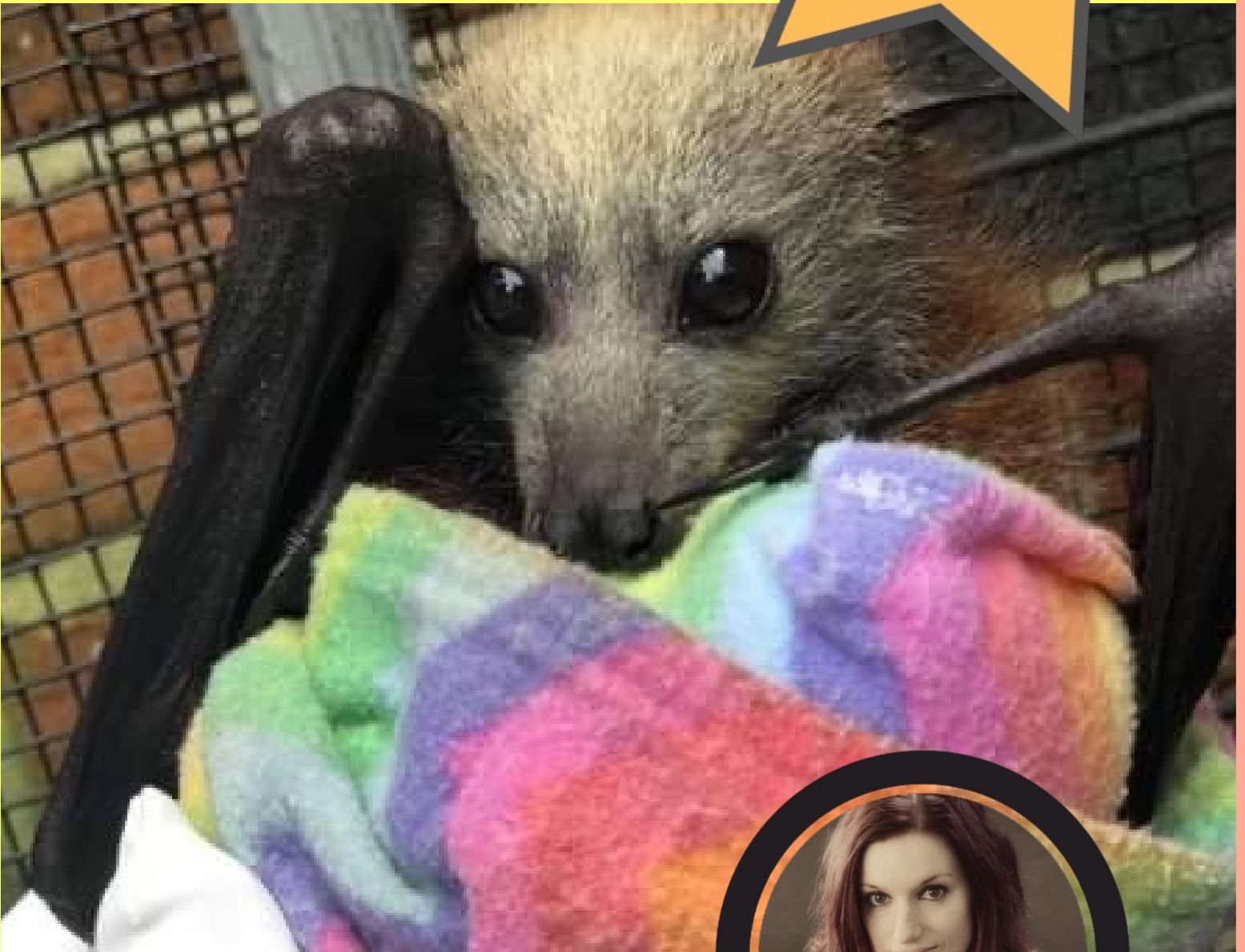
Watergum are a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity that helps the community engage in real, on-ground work to restore, maintain and protect the natural environment. Cane toad control is one of their key projects. Their head office is based in Burleigh Heads.

Like Watergum on Facebook for more nature based stories. Email info@watergum.org | Website watergum.org

Adult Cane toad image: Brian Gratwickes Flickr creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en

Star QUALITY

CRAFTING
FOR
WILDLIFE



Hundreds of injured and orphaned native wildlife around Australia sleep snugly in lovingly handmade pouches, pods, nests and hammocks thanks to a unique partnership between crafters in Australia and Germany.

The story begins when Dr Maren Dammann (pictured) moved from Germany to Australia at the age of 23 to study biology and research the habitat of

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council—RnR Magazine

koalas and flying foxes. Today Maren lives with her husband, two children, chickens, horses and dogs on their mini farm in Brisbane.



As a licensed wildlife carer, Maren takes in injured or orphaned wildlife from rehabilitation to release. She also co-ordinates a group called *STAR – Craft for Australian Wildlife Carers*, with nearly all craft produced by the group’s German partner *Kuschelwerke fuer Australien*, which translated means ‘cuddly craft for Australia’. We asked Maren how the group came about.

“The group was first established during the bushfires in 2019/20 when a lot of people from overseas desperately tried to help. Since I am a wildlife carer/rescuer, wildlife researcher and can do some craft myself, the group seemed like a good idea.

We then realised how important it is to help wildlife carers in the longterm as

especially in rural areas resources are desperately needed. We only distribute high quality items, every single product undergoes strict quality guidelines and checks, e.g. we are very strict with materials.

We believe for example that pouches need to be made out of 100% cotton (or cotton flannelette) to be breathable and have good insulation properties.

In the last year alone we distributed parcels to over 300 wildlife carers all over Australia. The distribution centre is managed by me and my husband Chris.

We also helped some smaller sanctuaries and raised donations for food and medical items and we supplied some beautiful craft for their own fundraisers.”



3D hanging bags for macropods
Traditional hanging bags for macropods
Pouches for numerous species
Microbat hanging bags
Bat wraps
Bird nests
Felted bridges, play pods, houses, tunnels
Koala carrying bags
Rescue basket liners, inlays, covers
Cuddle buddies
Incubator hanging bags

Join the 'STAR – Craft for Australian Wildlife Carers' group on Facebook, then scroll through the feed to view the various products. Next send a message to Maren with your product requests. Be sure to include the quantity of items and size (e.g. small, medium or large pouches). If you are not sure, let Maren know the age and species you are caring for and she can assist.

Once the order is finalised, Maren will calculate the postage fees which you can pay for either by direct bank transfer, PayPal, donation link or credit card. Once you have sent a screenshot of the payment to Maren, the tracking number for the package will be sent to you. Most orders are sent via Australia Post, some are sent by Sendle.

Dr Maren is an accomplished equestrian and author. When Maren is not writing she can be found on or with one of her horses, true to the motto "Horses are the best solution to any problem." You can discover more about Maren on her [website](#). All images supplied by Maren Dammann. Article by Editor.

TIPS N TRICKS

Information and images supplied by Terise Hungerford



Multi-purpose measure glass. Size of a shot glass. It has a teaspoon, tablespoon, millimetre and ounce measurements. Excellent resource. Can find it at Spotlight for \$7 or the Reject Shop for \$3.



Fantastic for all bottles but in particular glass bottles. Made of hard plastic. Comes apart for easy cleaning. Known as 'Boon Grass' or 'Bottle Grass' drying rack. Can be found on market place also.



Keeping your feeds warm. Use a wheat pack that you can reheat in the microwave. Holds the container or bowl in place and keeps temperature. You can purchase them at your chemist, local markets or online marketplace.

**Do you have a handy Tip n Trick you can share with our members?
Email it through to editor@qwrc.org.au to be featured in the RnR magazine**

Image: Spectacled Flying Fox (crop), Connie Pinson

CAPTURE AND CONSTRICT

Lana Field snapped these amazing photos of a Carpet Python mid and post feed on a Ringtail Possum.

Carpet pythons grasp prey in their jaw, wrap their coils around it and constrict. With no means to rip apart their food, once their prey has suffocated they manoeuvre it to consume it head first. The upper and lower jaw do not 'unhinge' as commonly thought, as they are not fused in the middle they can stretch far apart when swallowing. The snake uses its fangs on alternate sides of its jaws to move the prey down its throat. A stretchy neck and skin, saliva for lubrication and ribs that are not anchored to a sternum also help move the prey down its throat. Roana O'Neill



educational resources

Individual members can request 100 brochures and 100 booklets free every year of their membership. QWRC requests a fee to cover the postage and handling. The fee varies due to the postcode it is being mailed to and the weight of the package. Postage and handling costs apply.

Order your QWRC booklets and brochures today and have the name and contact details of your wildlife care group printed on them. Please email the secretary@qwrc.org.au for more information and to place an order. Please note that groups will need to cover the costs of printing and postage of their order.

Classic Design and Print have kindly provided the following information as an indication of cost.

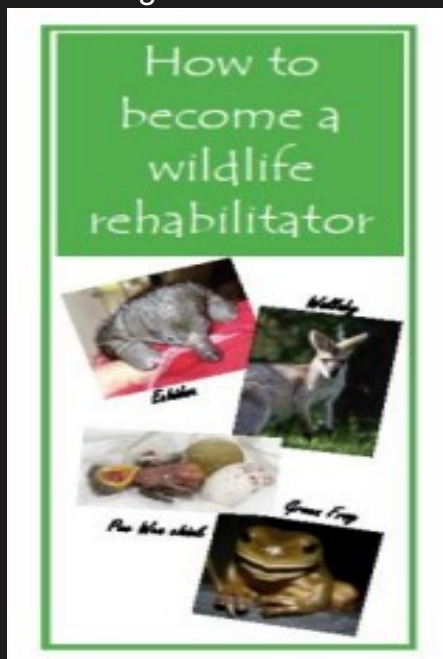
Cat, dogs, bats and wildlife rehabilitator brochures

\$395 inc gst for 2000 brochures and \$515 inc gst for 5000 brochures

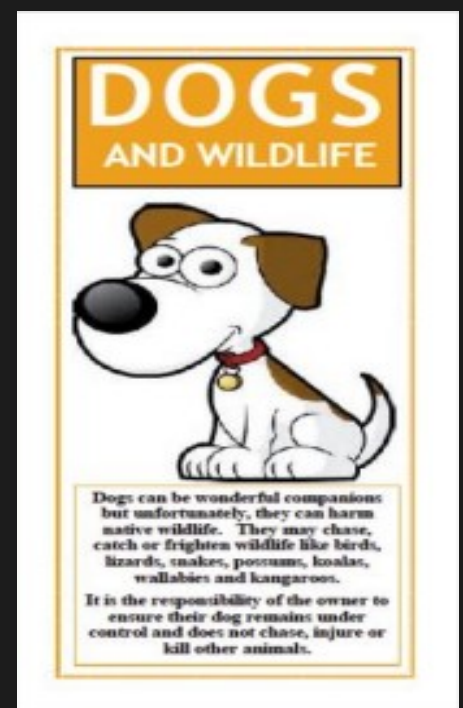
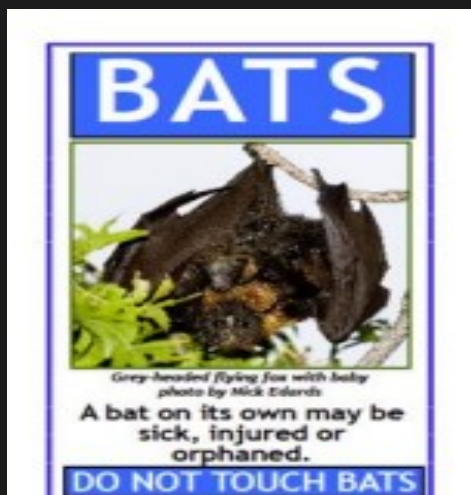
Wildlife Rescue Booklets

\$3,720 inc gst for 2,500 booklets and \$6,120 inc gst for 5,000 booklets

Costs are indicative only



order yours today!



LOVERS OR FIGHTERS?

Red-bellied black snake

(*Pseudechis porphyriacus*)

Average adult size:
1.5m – 2m

Diet: fish, tadpoles, frogs, lizards, snakes (including its own species) and mammals

Preferred habitat: streams, swamps, lagoons, but also found in forests, woodlands, grasslands

Shelters in: thick grass clumps, logs, mammal burrows and under large rocks

Distribution: N and central eastern Qld, SE Qld through eastern NSW and Victoria. Southern end of Mount Lofty Ranges in South Australia

Did you know: when escaping predators they often enter water and stay submerged with only their head showing, they can dive for as long as 23 mins

If you guessed fighters you were right! These male red-bellied black snakes were snapped fighting during mating season by Corey Ross at Goomburra near Warwick in south-east Queensland.

In order to gain access to a female they will rear the top half of their bodies up, twist their bodies together (as pictured) and even twist their necks together to try and press the other male to the ground in a show of dominance. The snakes will hiss at each other and can often bite, however they are immune to their own species venom. Eventually one of them will admit defeat and leave the area, leaving the successor to pursue the female. Roana O'Neill Image courtesy Corey Ross

TIPS ON BEING INCORPORATED

NEW UPDATES

Associations will need to disclose at their annual general meeting, any remuneration and other benefits given to management committee members and relatives of management committee members. Before this change is finalised in 2023 stakeholder consultation is being held, see information on this page on how you can provide feedback on what must be disclosed and how.



FIND OUT MORE

If you would like to be part of the consultation process you can register your interest by emailing nfpconsultation@justice.qld.gov.au

CONVICTIONS

People convicted of certain offences can sit on a management committee after a rehabilitation period of 5 years.

SECRETARY

The Secretary of an association must be 18 or older to help improve the internal governance standards for associations.

DISCLOSURE OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST

Management Committee members will have to disclose when they have a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a committee meeting, to the management committee as soon as they become aware of the interest and to members at the next general meeting of the association. If a committee member has a personal interest in a matter being considered the member will not be able to be present at the meeting or vote on the matter unless permitted to do so by the rest of the management committee.



Information has been sourced from the Queensland Government Website. Please refer to the website to read the information in full and for additional updates on being incorporated. Images by Connie Pinson (edit): Top, Graceful Honeyeater, Bottom, Orange-footed scrubfowl

BATS

WILDLIFE HEALTH AUSTRALIA

UPDATES FOR WILDLIFE CARERS



SUBSCRIBE TO BAT NEWS

Interested in staying up to date with media articles and publications relating to bat health once a month? Email admin@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au and ask to be added.

Did you know that the ABLV was first detected in a Black flying-fox in 1996

Do you transport or translocate bats? Read Wildlife Health Australia's [Flying-fox translocation and transport guidelines](#) to help with your planning and view the decision flow diagram for risk assessment and risk management

AUSTRALIAN BAT LYSSAVIRIUS (ABLV)

The Wildlife Health Australia report *ABLV Bat Stats* shows that 8 cases of ABLV infection were reported in Australian bats between January and June 2022, including 6 from Queensland, one from Victoria and one from South Australia. In Queensland the 6 bats comprised four black flying-foxes, one little red flying-fox and a yellow-bellied sheath-tail bat. The sheath-tail bat finding was listed as unusual in the report as ABLV is rarely detected in microbats. Symptoms exhibited by the sheath-tail included presenting as underweight, could not eat or swallow and showed progressive paralysis of the face. **Read the full report [here](#).**

Image above: Grey-headed Flying fox, Connie Pinson, Image below is of a mounted Yellow-bellied sheath-tail bat *Saccolaimus flaviventris* from Museums Victoria. Photo by Heath Warwick creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en



WILDLIFE HEALTH AUSTRALIA

UPDATES FOR WILDLIFE CARERS



“The presence of this contagious fungal pathogen in free-living Australian lizards poses a serious conservation threat.”

Scientists first announced the discovery of a deadly fungal disease affecting wild lizards in Australia in December 2020. Referred to as the “Yellow Fungus Disease”, the disease is known to reptile keepers but up until that point had never been recorded in the wild anywhere in the world.

A fungal pathogen, *Nannizziopsis barbatae* feeds on keratin, the main protein in skin. Impacted lizards were identified in Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland with focal outbreaks of Eastern Water Dragons in Brisbane parklands.

The research was led by USC Science Honours student Nicola Peterson, who worked as part of an interdisciplinary team that included, at the time, USC academics Associate Professor Celine Frere and Dr İpek Kurtböke, Dr Karrie Rose of the Taronga Conservation Society, Dr Stephanie Shaw of the Department of Environment and Science, Dr Tim Hyndman of Murdoch University, Professor Lynne Sigler of the University of Alberta, and Brisbane-based veterinarian Dr Josh Llinas.

“It’s awful to see what this infection does to reptiles,” said Ms Peterson. “The lizards we examined presented with extensive skin lesions, severe emaciation, and loss of toes and tails. They were in terrible condition and clearly suffering.”

While rare cases of infection have been reported in humans, the species of fungi affecting reptiles and humans are different, however wildlife carers should use appropriate biosafety measures when handling reptiles with suspicious skin lesions.

Dr Karrie Rose, who is the manager of Taronga’s Australian Registry of Wildlife Health said, “This research highlights the importance of monitoring and investigating emergent disease to protect our iconic species and environments. The community has a role in this process and can report unusual signs in wildlife to the Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 or their Wildlife Health Australia State Co-ordinator.” In Queensland, contact Anita Gordon at Biosecurity Qld on (07) 3708 8762 or via email at bslwildlife@daf.qld.gov.au

Information and image used with permission from University Sunshine Coast (USC) and Nicola Peterson and sourced from a USC media release via the Wildlife Health Australia website and from Nicola Peterson. Quote is attributed to Professor Sigler a world-leading mycologist



DYING TO CROSS THE ROAD

According to statistics from insurance company AAMI, between March 2018 and February 2019 7,992 kangaroos collided with cars, wallabies were next with 392 collisions.

After wallabies, in descending order were 'other', wombats, dogs, deer, cows, emus and foxes.

See over the page for collision hotspots across Australia.

Can you guess where the hotspot is in Queensland?



According to AAMI, most collisions occur during June to August

TOP HOTSPOTS FOR ANIMAL COLLISIONS



According to information from AAMI, for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021, Charters Towers was reported as a hot spot for animal collisions in Queensland, with the most common collisions occurring at dusk on a Sunday. In 2020 Roma was listed as the Queensland animal collision hotspot. [Note at the time of publishing, the 2022 statistics had not yet been released]

Top 5

Queensland animal collision spots

- 1 Charters Towers
- 2 Townsville
- 3 Nebo
- 4 Biloela
- 5 Sarina



'Top hotspots for animal collisions chart' sourced from the Suncorp website
 *Information sourced from AAMI website in an article released on 29 June 2022



Disaster Fund

The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council understands the financial impact for members that have endured a natural disaster and are here to assist you.

The **QWRC Disaster Fund** is to assist carers affected by any natural disaster.

To claim up to a maximum amount of \$1000, members need to email the Secretary to request the 'QWRC Disaster Relief Application Form' or enquire for more information.

For more information email us at secretary@qwrc.org.au

Images:

Top, Rainbow Lorikeet, Connie Pinson
 Right, Tawny Frogmouths, Connie Pinson

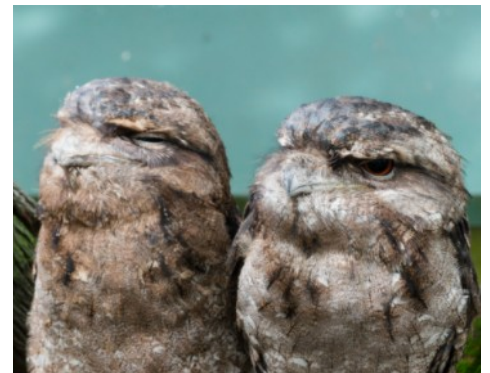
Rebates

QWRC offers members the opportunity to claim up to \$50 rebate for educational information or training relating to caring for wildlife, for example, online conferences, educational books, or training workshops.

How do I request a claim?

1. **Complete** a 'QWRC Training Expense Claim Form'. Refer to your membership documents or request a copy from the Secretary.
2. **Attach** a copy of the receipt showing company, date, item purchased and amount.
3. **Include** your bank details.
4. **Email** it all to secretary@qwrc.org.au or mail to the Secretary P.O. Box 488 Archerfield Qld 4108.
5. Your claim will be assessed by QWRC and you will be advised of the outcome.

Code of practice



The Code of Practice – **Care of sick, injured or orphaned protected animals in Queensland** includes current best practice standards and guidelines in wildlife care and rehabilitation. The document assists carers to ensure the welfare of animals and to achieve the best possible rehabilitation and conservation outcomes for Queensland's wildlife. Every wildlife carer should read this code. Do you have the latest [2020 version?](#)

have you joined us on Facebook?



**QWRC has 2
Facebook pages!**

Like our **public Facebook** page to stay up to date with animal events and projects. Just search for 'Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.'

Then join our QWRC **members only** Facebook page to meet other carers, ask questions and share information. Search for 'QWRC Member Discussion Group.'

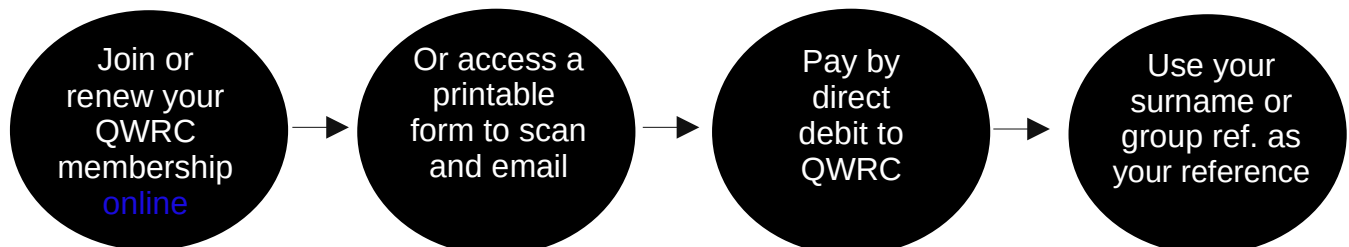
**We look forward to
seeing you online**

Image: Seagull, (crop), Connie Pinson

QWRC *Membership Benefits*

- 1 Access & support
- 2 Public liability & insurance
- 3 Advocacy
- 4 Resources

As a valued member of QWRC we provide support as a collective voice for rehabilitation, provide access to a network of carers, offer public liability and volunteer workers insurance program, professional advice and training



What's out there?

Aussie wildlife videos

WIRES, Navitas Skilled Futures and SBS partnered to produce a series of videos called "Living with Aussie Wildlife".

The short videos, were designed to improve English language skills. Learning notes, transcripts and worksheets also accompany the videos.

If you are working with culturally diverse communities you may find these useful? Also available in multiple languages. They may even be of interest to younger audiences.

10 videos cover snakes, kookaburras, flying foxes, magpies, koalas, spiders, lizards, waterbirds, brushtail possums and parrots.



Wildlife Rescue 101 videos



EPISODE 7 - PRECIOUS POSSUMS

Green Heroes Youth Ambassador Noah Jay explains how we can help our backyard possums and follows the story of a common brushtail recovering from dermatitis.

Green Heroes wrote and directed a wildlife conservation-themed short film series in collaboration with Animal Rescue Cooperative (ARC), WIRES, Currumbin Wildlife Hospital and Matt Berwick Films.

The 10 episodes include

1. Basic Wildlife Rescue
2. Helping Native Birds
3. Brilliant Bats
4. Living with Koalas
5. Remarkable Reptiles
6. Fishing lines, hooks and debris
7. Precious possums (as per above)
8. Wildlife Carer's own words
9. Precious possums (focus on helping wildlife in our backyards)
10. Day in a wildlife ambulance

These videos are great tools to use when delivering your own wildlife training, running school and community group presentations. You may also like to share the links on your social media platforms or watch to improve your own knowledge and understanding.

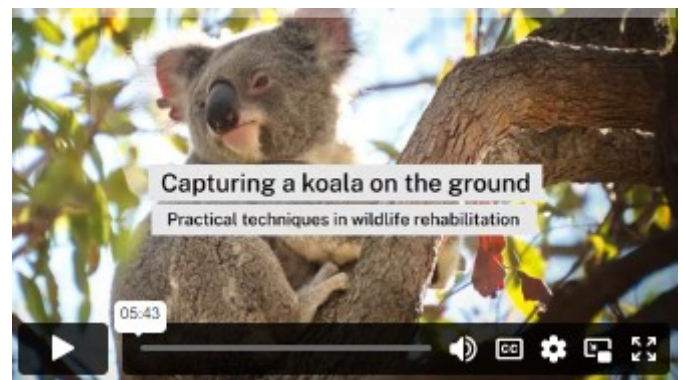
You can find the videos on the ARC [website](#).

Koala training videos

Does your wildlife group or vet practice rescue or handle koalas? Then this series of 11 videos may assist you.

Practical techniques in wildlife rehabilitation are short videos that demonstrate how to correctly apply selected standards in the codes of practice. They cover a broad range of skills and can be used to complement your wildlife rehabilitation training, with the aim of achieving consistency of care and improved clinical outcomes for rescued koalas.

The videos were produced in collaboration with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Sally Grainger (Versatile Vet) and Cheyne Flanagan at Koala Conservation Australia.



iPhone Plant ID in 4 easy steps

You are out and about searching for browse and come across a plant you can't identify. If you are an iPhone user you are in luck! iPhone's can now identify plants without you having to download an App.

- Step 1** Take a photo of the plant you want to identify
- Step 2** Go to your photo library and select the image
- Step 3** Tap the information icon (an "i" in a circle) at the bottom of the image
- Step 4** Click on the text "Look Up – Plant and the results will appear

What's out there?

Industry placements, graduate opportunities and job vacancies

Are you or someone you know looking for opportunities to improve your skills in the wildlife industry? Check out the Department of Environment and Science (DES) website for industry placements, graduate and job opportunities.

<h3>Why work with us?</h3> <p>> Information for applicants</p>	<h3>People stories</h3> <p>Meet a few of our incredible staff and learn about some of the unique experiences they have working with us.</p>	<h3>Being a Park Ranger?</h3> <p>Who wouldn't want to work in some of the world's most spectacular places? Find out what it's like to be a park or marine ranger in Queensland.</p>
<h3>Graduate opportunities</h3> <p>Information about graduate opportunities in the Department of Environment and Science and the Queensland Government.</p>	<h3>Industry placements</h3> <p>Boost your university or tertiary studies and gain unique work experiences with us.</p>	<h3>Volunteering for Parks</h3> <p>> Volunteering opportunities</p> <p>> Campground hosts</p> <p>> Frequently asked questions</p>
<h3>Work experience</h3> <p>Work experience opportunities provide students with valuable on-the-job learning and skill development.</p>	<h3>Job vacancies</h3> <p>Discover your next career opportunity with us.</p>	<h3>Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers</h3> <p>Land and sea rangers care for Queensland's waterways and protected species and support national park management.</p>

Volunteering, campground host and work experience

At the time of publishing there were 55 volunteer, campground host and work experience listings on the DES website including mangrove data collection, weed removal, shark monitoring and helping care for wildlife.

[David Fleay Wildlife Park volunteers, work experience and Industry placements](#)



Help care for wildlife and visitor facilities at David Fleay Wildlife Park on the Gold Coast.

- David Fleay Wildlife Park
- Year round
Occasional dependent on work programs

[Read more >](#)

PalmOil Scan App

Check if the product you are about to purchase is from a company committed to sourcing sustainable palm oil by downloading the PalmOil Scan App.

The App was produced in collaboration with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and top conservation-minded zoos around the world.

The database contains 1000's of brands and 100's of consumer product manufacturers to reveal how committed they are to certified sustainable palm oil.

Note: this App has a focus on North American products





Photos (cropped) from the talented Connie Pinson, clockwise, Swamp orchid flowers (*Phaius tancarvilleae*), Painted Grasshawk Dragonfly (*Neurothemis stigmatizans*), Microbat, Fruit of the Scarlet Bean Tree (*Archidendron lucyi*)

