

RnR

REHABILITATE & RELEASE

Issue **44**
SEPTEMBER
2023



MEET THE DAINTREE'S **BAT WOMAN**

entangled wildlife
and how you can help

koala training
QWRC's feedback

captive bolt gun
safe use & handling

Plus
tips 'n tricks
& resources

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 Trustees are Glendell Appleford and Annie Saunders.

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.

QWRC Representatives

Amber Dahlberg

District 1, Cape York/Dry Tropics/Gulf, Ph 0421 553 214

Connie Pinson (Secretary)

District 2, Wet Tropics/Cairns Marine, Ph (07) 4098 9056

Margaret Neihoff

District 3, Savannah/Townsville Marine, Ph 0418 750 248

Kirsty Black

District 4, Mackay/Whitsunday, Ph 0498 158 114

Janet Irvine (Treasurer/Membership)

District 5, Capricorn/Gladstone, Ph 0411 254 661

Kim Palmer (Chairperson)

District 6, Longreach, Ph (07) 4658 7216

Judy Elliott

District 7, Wide Bay Burnett/Great Sandy, Ph 0428 980 814

Lea Macken (Minute Secretary)

District 8, South West, Ph 0428 437 984 or (07) 4665 4088

Terise Hungerford

District 9, Toowoomba, Ph 0448 814 882

Glendell Appleford

District 10, Sunshine Coast/Southern Marine, Ph 0413 453 722

Lana Field

District 11, South East/Moreton Bay, Ph 0412 036 655

Vice Chairperson	Samantha Tro, Ph 0422 466 099
Enquiries & memberships	Connie Pinson - secretary@qwrc.org.au
Treasurer	Janet Irvine - treasurer@qwrc.org.au
RnR Editor	Roana O'Neill - editor@qwrc.org.au
Website	qwrc.org.au
Postal Address	PO Box 488, Archerfield, Qld 4108
Phone	Please refer to your local Rep as per above
Email	To email a Rep, email the Secretary and state your district in the subject line. Your email will be forwarded to the Rep. Where there is no Rep your email will be forwarded to the Chairperson.
Facebook	@queenslandwildliferehabilitationcouncil
Bank account	BSB: 034063 Acc No. 549477

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Cover image: Spectacled Flying-fox (*Pteropus conspicillatus*), Connie Pinson



Chairperson's Report

Welcome to a new edition of the RNR.

As I write this many of you will be preparing to attend another informative Wildlife Conference in Perth. I look forward to hearing how it went and catching up on some updated reading when the papers are available online. This event is not just about education but also a major social event for many rehabbers to catch up and unwind ready to hit the ground running when they return home for the start of trauma season. After a relatively warm winter I imagine many wildlife carers are already seeing an increase in spring arrivals.

As trauma season hits please don't forget if you need to talk to a professional and understanding councillor regarding what we, as rehabbers and rescuers, witness and deal with, WildTalk is only a ph call away.

QWRC is still purchasing and distributing equipment via the Gambling Benefit Grant to its members and to date we have ordered -

26 ICUs

12 Captive Bolt Guns

13 Various cages

5 Bundles of Fence Panels

Plus various special requests. We still have requests to fill so please be patient while Connie and Janet, our amazing secretary and treasurer, continue to organise all the orders around their busy lives.

The QWRC AGM is just around the corner so keep an eye on your emails for an invite and nomination forms.

Hope the animals are as kind to you as you all are to them this season.

Take care

Kim Palmer, QWRC Chair





From the Editor

Roana O'Neill

editor@qwrc.org.au

None of us are immune to challenging times, and sometimes all we need is some inspiration and hope to take us from functioning to flourishing again. In our Carer's Profile (page 20) we find that Connie Pinson is hugely inspirational. Our QWRC Secretary, not only provides specialist care for flying-foxes, but with her husband Dave started 'Daintree Life', a project that will see 500,000 trees planted by 2030 restoring ecosystems

and providing homes and food resources for local wildlife. Watch a [time-lapse video](#) of their very first community planting day and see 1048 trees planted in 38 seconds!

Helping fight for wildlife through technology is Leonard Fitzpatrick, who started a citizen science project after wanting to find a tangible way of helping entangled wildlife. The *Entangled Wildlife Australia* Project on page 7 relies on all of us to contribute data to help build a picture of which species are being impacted, by what form of entanglement and where in Australia. Already this information is making positive inroads to help native wildlife.

Also in this issue are some practical tips 'n' tricks on page 24 for handy ways to help wildlife in care, and if you transport wildlife in your vehicle read the article on page 34 to make sure you are adhering to the Code of Practice, especially if you transport bats and venomous snakes.

Test your ID skills and see if you can identify some macropod noses on page 26, learn how you can access a free species list for the area you live in on page 32 and discover free resources you can download including the AWC kids activity book on page 33.

If you are a photographer check out the link to the *Wildlife Queensland Wayne Lawler Nature Conservation Photography Grant* on page 33 that closes 30 September 2023. This is a great opportunity for amateur photographers to improve their skills while helping the environment.

Finally, if you value QWRC as much as we do and know a fellow wildlife carer, vet staff, student or wildlife enthusiast who might be interested in joining, help us grow QWRC by sharing our membership benefits listed on pages 30 and 31.

Until the next RnR take care.

Editor

editor@qwrc.org.au

Image supplied by Editor: an orphaned brushtail possum on his release day taking his first look out over our garden from his newly installed nest-box.

QUEENSLAND'S THREATENED SPECIES AT A GLANCE

EXTINCT

5



INCLUDING THE BLUE-GREY MOUSE

**EXTINCT
IN THE
WILD**

26

**CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED**



ENDANGERED

292

INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO



VULNERABLE

588

INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO



Data sourced from the Queensland Government's website

qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/conservation/threatened-wildlife/threatened-species/explained

Data is current as at 25 November 2022 when the Nature Conservation (Animals) and Nature Conservation (Plants) Regulations 2021 were amended

Stamp Bulletin

No.384
2023



Native Animals – International
FIFA Women's World Cup 2023
Norfolk Island Lookouts Aussie
Bird Count
2023 Concession Stamp
AAT: Antarctic Circumnavigation
250 Years



Australia Post

The Stamp Bulletin is a free publication produced by Australia Post on a bi-monthly basis and covers upcoming stamp issues and special features.

The July issue features three stamp designs that will be released on 15 August 2023 based on prominent species sighted in the annual citizen science program *Aussie Bird Count*. The species include the Rainbow Lorikeet (pictured), the Noisy Miner and Australian Magpie.

Three threatened marsupial species stamps were also released in June for the International Post and included the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, Bilby and the Koala.

View the latest Stamp Bulletin edition.

Subscribe to The Stamp Bulletin.

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ENTANGLED

LEONARD
FITZPATRICK



“Be the change you wish to see in the world”. Inspired by this quote from Gandhi, Leonard Fitzpatrick set about creating the first Australia-wide citizen science database to record wildlife entanglements.

Since its inception, *Entangled Wildlife Australia* has recorded 2,700 flying foxes, birds, gliders and reptiles who have been entangled in barbed wire, inappropriate fruit netting, discarded fishing line, tackle and netting and general rubbish.

Leonard’s initiative not only acts as a central repository for entanglement data, but has the enormous potential to inform conservation efforts with records already being used to affect positive change for wildlife.

Please record entangled wildlife you come across to help advance our knowledge of this devastating issue. Editor

Drawn in by the perfume of ripe juicy peaches, this mother Black Flying-Fox, pictured above, and her dependent pup became entangled in the large aperture plastic netting covering a peach tree on acreage property at Capalaba, Queensland. After spotting them in the morning, the homeowner contacted Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD who quickly attended. Rescuers cut the netting that was constricting and cutting into their soft bodies and wing membranes, with the pup letting go of mum making it easier for the netting to be removed. After a month in care mum and pup’s injuries healed and they were successfully released. You can watch their rescue on the Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD [Facebook page](#).

Image courtesy Louella Harley, Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD. Editor’s note: At the time of writing Flying-Foxes made up 54% of all recorded entanglements from Entangled Wildlife Australia.

As a wildlife rescuer, I have seen and responded to a range of wildlife entanglement scenarios, and almost without exception, they are caused by choices people make. Using barbed wire on fences, carelessly discarding fishing line and tackle, using old style netting on fruit trees, tossing face masks without a second thought – the list goes on. The toll upon native wildlife is horrendous, maiming and killing terrestrial, freshwater, and marine mammals, birds, and reptiles. Of course, we can only guess at the actual number of animals impacted, with many escaping attempts at rescue, and therefore likely to endure an ever-worsening injury before eventually succumbing.

The 'lucky' ones that are found and rescued walk a tightrope. Some injuries are unable to be successfully treated to allow the animal to regain full strength, mobility, or their full visual/auditory capabilities which they need to survive, leaving euthanasia as the only humane option. The extent of other injuries can sometimes take a few days to manifest e.g. fruit netting entanglement. In some cases e.g. barbed wire, the actual entanglement may be minor, but damage to the palate of a distressed flying-fox desperately trying to free itself means there will only be one tragic outcome.

The stress, pain, and trauma to wildlife from entanglement is obvious, and the human dimension is also something to be mindful of. Rescuers, vet staff, rehabilitators, and the members of the public who often make the initial call, all see and have to deal with the confronting emotional reality of an animal that is in pain, encumbered, or has already passed.

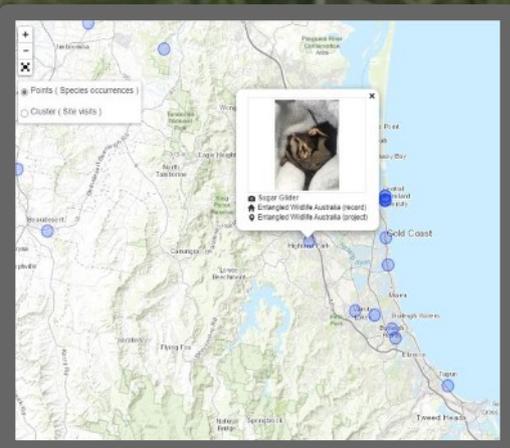


Through my own volunteering experience with a number of wildlife rescue organisations, it was evident from early on that entanglements are one of the most common reasons for rescue call-outs. On the back of the pivotal work done by others, most notably through the Wildlife-Friendly Fencing Project and Jenny Mclean's leadership in this space, I was inspired to contribute to this effort.

▲ Black Flying-Fox caught in fruit netting in Birkdale, Queensland and released after 3 weeks in care. Image courtesy Louella Harley, Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD.

▶ Black Flying-Fox and pup caught in a child's backyard soccer net in Birkdale, Queensland. Pup required sub-cut fluids possibly caused by stress of entanglement. Both were successfully released after 3 weeks in care. Watch the pair being rescued on the Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD [Facebook page](#). Image courtesy Louella Harley, Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD.



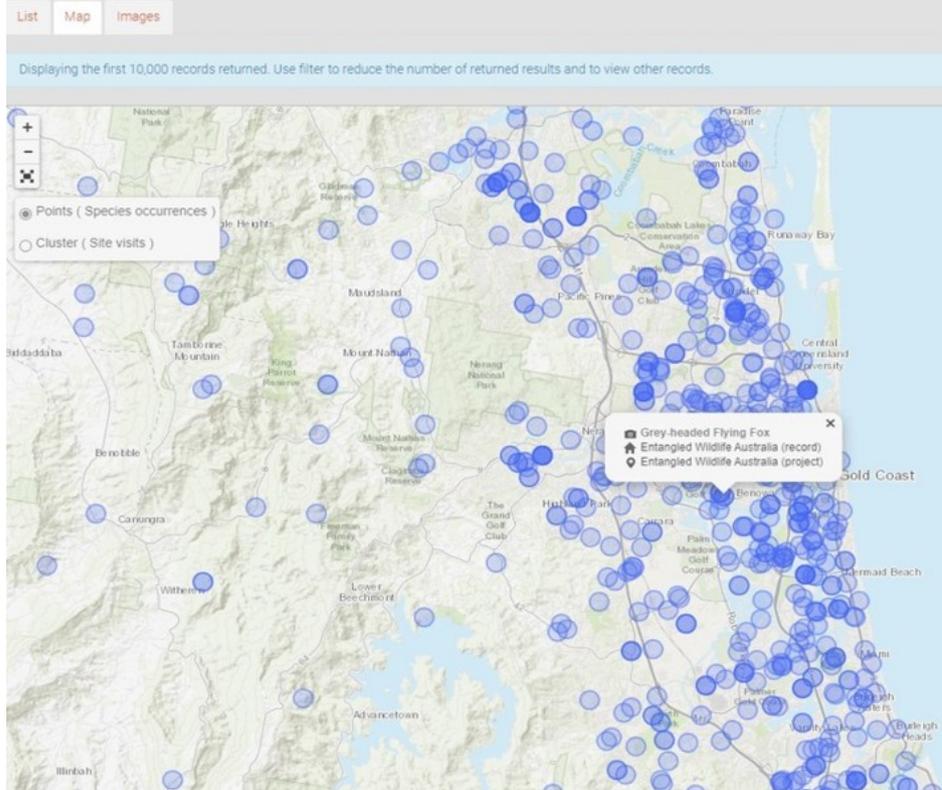


In advocating for a shift in regulation/policy relating to entanglement hazards e.g. Councils, and for encouraging behaviour change e.g. property owners, I understood that decision-makers would want to see data before they would consider changing the status quo. Each rescue and rehabilitation group has its own system to record data, which is dependent on the availability of resources and time. It was not evident that there was a nation-wide resource to capture entanglement data, something which could be easily accessible and would be a resource for researchers and those engaging with Councils, or anyone with an interest in Australian native wildlife and the hazards they face.

At a fauna movement solutions symposium in Brisbane, I heard about the Atlas of Living Australia's citizen science platform, BioCollect. With the help of the ALA's technical team, I set up the Entangled Wildlife Australia (EWA) project (bit.ly/3q1EHPH) in July 2020. This citizen science project allows anyone in the wildlife community or the members of the public to record entanglement sightings via the BioCollect app or via the ALA's website. A range of data fields can be recorded e.g. date, name of recorded/affiliated wildlife group, location, species, gender, age group, type of entanglement, immediate outcome (rescued, injured but not captured, or already deceased), with an option to upload images. Records can be added manually / progressively, or for some groups, they prefer to submit a bulk set of records via a spreadsheet, for which I have an EWA spreadsheet template to assist.

▲ The adult male squirrel glider, pictured above, was caught on a single strand of barbed wire fence on a property just metres from the busy Bruce Highway near Maryborough in Queensland. Rescued by East Coast Exotic Haven on 27 April 2023 he was taken into care, but succumbed to his injuries days later. Image courtesy East Coast Exotic Haven.

▲ You can view the contents of the database in a number of ways, including via a grid, list, images or as per the map above. Each blue circle indicates where an entangled animal was recorded, such as the Sugar Glider above near Highland Park in Queensland. Just click on the circle to view the summary of the record, then click again on *Entangled Wildlife Australia (record)* to view the entire record. You can also view the map by clusters, showing you where repeated entanglements have occurred.



► Thanks to the efforts of individuals and wildlife groups logging records, the database can help identify entanglement hotspots.

▼ Pelican with a fishing hook lodged in its bill. Image courtesy Pelican and Seabird Rescue.

There are already over 2700 records in the database, and it can be filtered by a range of fields. Data can be readily downloaded. I am grateful for the large data sets provided by a number of organisations including Bats Qld, FAWNA NSW, Wildcare NT, Western Australian Seabird Rescue, and for ACT Wildlife's support in developing standard operating procedures to assist their members in submitting entanglement data to EWA.



As more records are entered into the database, a picture emerges of the most common (or diversity of) species impacted in an area; the most common entanglement hazards; and particular hotspots e.g. near popular coastal fishing spots. Having a rich and robust data set is good, but its real value is when it is used to achieve positive change. ACT Wildlife drew upon the database to support its successful approach to the ACT Government in calling for a trial of fishing disposal containers at a lake where fishing-related entanglements are commonplace.

I am hopeful that with open access to a growing body of evidence about the sheer scale of the problem of

entanglements, that similar 'wins' for wildlife will become more commonplace in Queensland. As members of the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation community across Queensland, I see great potential in what we can achieve together, raising awareness of the entanglement threats to wildlife, and to bring about positive change in attitudes and behaviour. If you would like to contact me regarding this initiative, please email me at entangledwildlifeaustralia@ihug.com.au.



FaunaOzEducation

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



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- **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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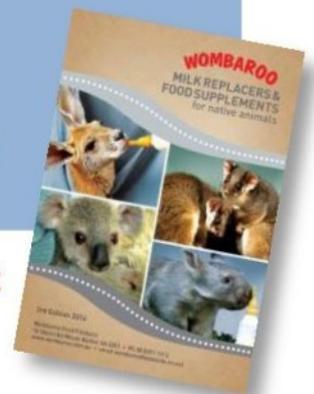


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Koala Rehabilitation Training Course Feedback

QWRC recently provided feedback to the Department of Environment and Science (DES) as part of a consultation process around the development of a training course for koala rehabilitation. Here is QWRC's response in full.

"Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the consultation process in the development of the Training Course for Koala Rehabilitation. Discussions have been undertaken with QWRC members and the Committee. QWRC has a number of permitted koala rehabilitators which we hope have provided you with feedback as individuals. Overall, from those we were able to discuss the proposed training with, there was positive feedback from our members with a few items for your consideration.

1. There has been some confusion for members reading the proposed training documents:
 - a) The order of training is not clearly stated and for whom and at what stage
 - b) Those with prior permits, extensive education, contribution and experience are not recognised
 - c) Read the documents believing that a



newly permitted carer, after obtaining their permit, would then need to complete the full training prior to undertaking the rescue, care or release of koala's.

QWRC would like to suggest that a training schedule as an overview sheet be generated with a visual graphic showing the training schedule step by step and the permit process relating to each other is clearly understood.

QWRC feels that the organisation and or carer would benefit from a clear understanding that the full proposed training is to be completed prior to applying for a permit. And further, that evidence of the training schedule having been completed will be a mandatory requirement as evidence upon submitting a new koala rehabilitation application.

2. Members would like to see an inclusion for the carer to gain a greater awareness and understanding of;

- a) The best practice of understanding species of eucalyptus trees and where the variety of species are located in Queensland. Underpinning understanding of why a particular species is only found in that area and further consideration be given to cultivating eucalyptus, such as climate and soil. (continued)



Image above: Eucalypt, Louise Saunders
Image on previous page: Koala, Jowita
(Jade) Por, QWRC member

b) Rehabilitator must have a broad knowledge of the species of eucalyptus trees against the area in which the koala was rescued.

c) in the case of a special species of leaf being required, regardless of where the koala is being rehabilitated in Queensland, that leaf must be collected and provided from the location of where the koala was rescued to ensure suitable leaf is provided.

3. Members have expressed that they feel the Trainers Questions should be a multiple choice selection.

4. QWRC would like to question the training and qualifications the organisations themselves will be required to hold in order to deliver the training schedule to others.

5. That it be mandatory that all who intend to rescue and transport koala complete training also, and this is to include RSPCA ambulance attendants.

6. That serious consideration be given to those who do not reside in SEQ and are unable to afford two to four days from their facility, overnight accommodation and transport to the training organisations. That a central organisation is approved in the wider Western Downs.

In closing, we once again appreciate the inclusion of QWRC in this consultation process.

Your sincerely,

Kim Palmer
Chairperson”

QWRC will keep members informed of updates to the koala training rehabilitation course.

DES also recently reviewed the development regulations put in place in 2020 to protect koala habitat in South East Queensland (SEQ). You can read the “Consultation Post Implementation Review report [here](#). Public consultation on this review closed in June 2023 and DES is now considering all submission received.

Keep up to date with the current rules and regulations for development in koala habitat and koala priority areas [here](#).



WILDLIFE

admissions

The veterinary receptionist is often the first to handle native fauna that members of the public present, either injured or orphaned or just 'found'. QWRC has put together guidelines to assist vet clinics in the initial management of the animal being presented. The guidelines include an animal rescue sheet, triage for birds, what to do if you find a baby bird, dealing with possums that come into care, and reptile, echidna, amphibian and bat management. Read over the page for what to check for when a macropod comes into the clinic.

If you would like a copy of the *Wildlife Admission – Primary Action Plans* sent to your clinic, email your request to the QWRC Secretary at secretary@qwrc.org.au

MACROPOD SPECIES

HOW TO HANDLE

Always handle macropod joeys (of any size including furless) by the base of the tail. Keep the head covered where possible to eliminate stress. Fully furred larger joeys are best kept with the legs pointing away from you to avoid being kicked. Be aware of Capture Myopathy developing in a stressed animal, never restrain their legs.

WEIGHING JOEY

The correct weight of joeys is needed for any drugs/other treatment and general health assessment. Remember to subtract the weight of the pouch. Small digital kitchen scales are recommended but a larger plastic bowl may be needed for larger joeys.

WHERE TO STORE THE ANIMAL BEFORE AND AFTER VET EXAMINATION

Place the joey in a suitable sized pouch/pillowcase and then into a hanging pouch/shopping bag in a quiet room. Furless joeys will need to be kept warm, see below.

RECOMMENDED TEMPERATURE

Prior to vet examination and whilst awaiting collection by a carer, keep furless joeys around 32C. Either place in humidicrib or use heatpad, microwavable wheatpack or hotwater bottle (warm NOT hot water and wrapped in towel). Use a thermometer placing the probe underneath the pouch (not inside with the joey) and check the temperature regularly as joeys can easily overheat which can cause problems like cataracts several weeks later. Larger fully furred joeys do not need the extra heat. Store in a quiet area, away from barking dogs and ringing phones.

HYDRATION STATUS

Check all incoming joeys by pinching over their shoulder area. Offer Vytrate/Lectade solution, furred ones will probably lap. Severely dehydrated animals need to be given subcut fluids as a matter of urgency. Do not give furless joeys anything by mouth unless you are very experienced and have suitable syringes/teats but administer subcut fluids instead. Make sure fluids are tepid, not cold.

TOILETING JOEYS

It is a good idea to toilet furless/just furring joeys to make them comfortable and avoid soiled/wet pouches. Larger joeys can also benefit. Just gently tickle their cloaca with a moist cotton ball or tissue preferably before any feeding.

WASH YOUR HANDS

Let the wildlife carer make the decision re age orphan rearing viability until you become competent/experienced. Use your head not your heart.

VETERINARY EXAMINATION

If euthanasia is required do it as soon as possible. It is your duty of care to relieve pain as soon as possible.

CONTACT CARER

Following the vet examination contact a suitable permitted carer and arrange for the joey to be picked up as soon as possible. Discuss with carer any feeding requirements if needed before collection.

Image on previous page: Red-necked wallaby, Linda Karlsen, Bundy Wildlife Rescue Inc.

QWRC Rep in ABC article

Our very own QWRC Representative for District 8, Lea Macken, recently featured in an ABC article about wildlife trafficking. In her role as Police Officer-in-charge, Lea's home town of Hungerford, in south-west Queensland has become a hotspot for animal smugglers. Read about what Lea is on the look out for on the ABC website.

in brief

Precision measuring

If you've just received a young mammal, bird or reptile into care, callipers (pictured) are a handy measuring tool to assist you in working out what age the animal is to then determine the amount of food to provide.

You can purchase callipers from wildlife supplies, Bunnings or auto shops.

Quoll family hitches a ride

Five northern quolls found themselves a long way from home earlier this year when they climbed into a Cairns pumpkin box destined for a Melbourne wholesale market.

Read about the capture of Mum and her four babies, and what happened next on the ABC website.



CAPTIVE BOLT GUN *safe use*



A number of QWRC members requested a Captive bolt gun in the QWRC Equipment and Improvement Grant. Thank you QWRC! I was fortunate to receive one and whilst it is a sensitive issue amongst many, I for one am truly grateful to now have the piece of equipment to support the timely euthanasia of wildlife to alleviate significant pain or suffering which is not able to be managed by a veterinarian or treatment nor recovery from its injuries is expected. For me personally, living in a rural location, I needed one. There is nothing worse than being called to a kangaroo that has had both legs severed by a vehicle and the closest person authorised with a weapon is an hour away. Used in the appropriate manner, this is a valuable piece of equipment. Here's my own personal guidelines in the use of the Turbocut Blitz Kerner model (pictured).

Education

Go to www.schussapparrate.de and choose to translate the website into English. Watch all the videos available on the website to understand the equipment. Download the English operators manual in English from the website. Practice the use of the equipment on soft timber and an apple.

Images: Injured Eastern Grey Kangaroo doe attended to by Terise in a 100km round trip requiring use of a captive bolt gun pictured here. Images supplied by Terise Hungerford.

Storage

Break down the equipment into segments for storage. I never leave the equipment loaded whilst in storage.

Secure the equipment in a durable container with the ability to lock it for safe storage when not in use. I do not leave it in a vehicle unattended.

Even when it is stored within a house or shed, re-secure in another locked cupboard or safe.

Confidence in Safe Use

Assess the animal and situation, plan the use of the equipment in a realistic manner to the surrounding environment.

I ask any bystanders to leave the site to minimise the stress of the animal and situation. I explain to the immediate bystanders what action I am about to undertake and ask them to leave the site for the safety of myself and others.

Apply a high visibility vest, protective eyewear and gloves.

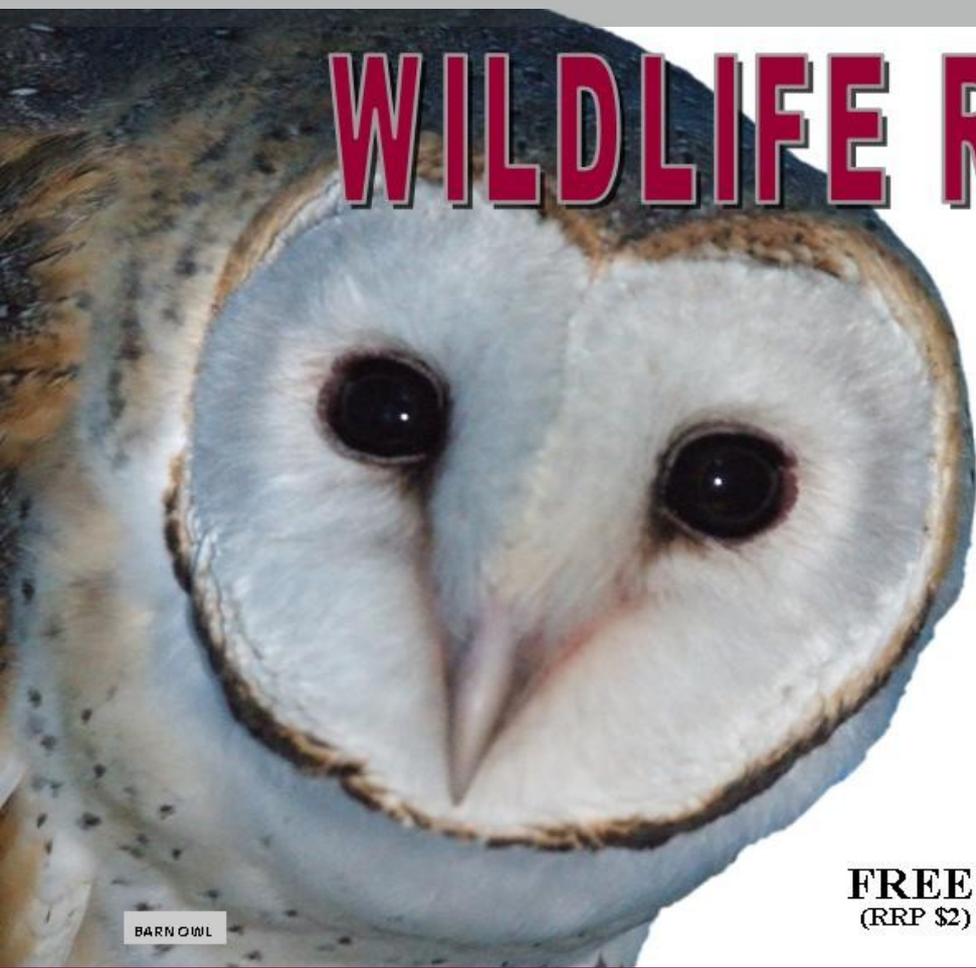
As per *How to Euthanase* in the [Code of Practice 13.3.2.2](#) - I provide "...cranial trauma sufficient to cause instantaneous insensibility followed by the rapid death of the animal without first regaining sensation or consciousness. In effect, the technique must destroy the brain."

Terise Hungerford

QWRC Representative District 9

Editors Note: Please note this is not a QWRC guideline or part of training notes. QWRC feels the information is sound advice for others.





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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. All prices are inclusive of gst.



Cat, dogs, bats and wildlife rehabilitator brochures

2000 brochures \$395
5000 brochures \$515

Wildlife Rescue Booklets

2,500 \$3,720
5,000 \$6,120

Postage and handling costs apply

Wildlife **ON OUR ROADS**



Earlier this year I went for a bit of a drive, in fact, I covered a little over 2100 kilometres. I love driving but as an animal rescuer, any drive involves a lot of stopping to check the pouches of dead animals, and, to drag dead animals off the road to stop scavengers from also becoming victims of cars.

I lost count of the numbers of animals I stopped for. Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies and Red-necked Wallabies were the main species but I also stopped for two Brushtail Possums. Most of the smaller animals were beyond checking. I saw echidnas, turtles, snakes and a multitude of bird species.

On the way home and just 30 kilometres from Ban Ban Springs, on the Burnett Highway I came across the pictured animal. A koala. He was lying across the white line on the other side of the road. I found a safe location to do a U-turn about a kilometre down the road and went back. I had to check as it may have been a female with a pouched youngster. I got out of the car, put on my safety vest yet again and cautiously made my way down the road. I grabbed him by one leg once I found he was deceased and then sprinted back to my car as the road was narrow and I was on a curve with little visibility. Thoughts of rescuers who have been hit by cars when rescuing wildlife danced through my head.

I laid him on the ground behind my car and proceeded to check his body and that was when I discovered he was a male animal. He was young and appeared to have been in perfect health. He had suffered major head trauma and his right hip was broken. That was also when I discovered that he had only been hit very recently as he was still bleeding.

It was only in February of last year that the koalas' status changed from vulnerable to endangered. That change in status according to the Queensland Government website means an 'increased level of protection for koalas in Queensland, New South Wales and the ACT'. There was no increased protection for this young male. He was going about his business and a vehicle ended his life.

The word endangered sounds so innocuous but it means that the species, our precious koalas, are in danger of becoming extinct. In Queensland koala numbers have dropped by about 50% since 2001. Some predict that they may be gone from the wild by 2050 in NSW and I am sure QLD will suffer a similar fate.

I was sitting on the side of the road in tears and there was nothing I could do. I wept for him and for his kind and for all the other animals I had dragged off the road. When travelling, please drive carefully and keep an eye out for wildlife and if you come across bodies, check them for pouched young. Please remember, extinction really is forever. **Article and image by Linda Karlsen, President Bundy Wildlife Rescue Inc.**

Carer's profile

Connie Pinson



“leave the world a better place”



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

After rescuing many birds through my adult years, I attended a WIRES course in Coffs Harbour in 2000, just simply knowing I wanted to do better for the animals. But from the moment I set eyes upon an adult Grey-Headed permanent care Flying-Fox at that training, my heart was stolen by bats.



Images courtesy Connie Pinson

Previous page, Connie Pinson

Top of page, Connie Pinson with an adult Spectacled Flying-Fox that was in rehabilitation

Above, Connie Pinson presenting training to Victorian bat carers
Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council—RnR Magazine

How did you get to where you are today?

Meeting Dave (now my husband) was the biggest step up when it comes to involvement with bats. Although I loved working with them, his reputation and involvement has been widely known for years and as the author of the Flying-Fox Manual, he was often invited to present bat training. I then began co-presenting with him and now, I tend to do the large majority of training. On a different personal business level – we began revegetating old farm land in 2014 for other landowners, and have now formed our own business *Daintree Life* in 2018 and continue revegetating disused farm areas, weedy roadside reserves owned by our local Council and National Park land. My (our) ethos on this is that almost all wildlife comes into care due to human actions – whether habitat destruction, car strikes, barbed wire fences etc. Our wildlife is continually struggling, in particular from habitat destruction, which makes it in some ways senseless to be putting wildlife ‘back out there’ to ever diminishing habitat. So our work increasing habitat is creating a better future for the wildlife, fighting against climate change and eradicating weeds.

What is the most common species to come into your care?

Spectacled Flying-Foxes and other assorted bats, bandicoots and melomy. I tend to rescue most species in the area due to limited carers, but I pass on those that I am not experienced with.

What would you like to share with members?

As Daintree Life – our goal is to plant 500,000 trees by 2030. We have a long way to go, but better to strive high than low. We have recently secured a large planting site which will be revegetated with 33,000 trees over the next 5 years.

Can you recommend resources to other carers?

For bat carers, I cannot recommend the Flying-Fox Manual highly enough. Yes I may be biased here as it is written by my husband, but it is also my absolute “go to”. This is a comprehensive manual on all things Flying-Fox and megabat related. If you printed this book out it would print to some 1600+ A4 pages. For microbats – *Australian Bats* resource by Sue Churchill (for identification) and *Care and Rehabilitation of Microbats* by Rachel Lyons.

How can members and the public help?

Donate to causes you believe in. Get involved. Check out our *Daintree Life* website to find out how you can support our work.

Connie Pinson is QWRC’s Secretary, as well as the QWRC Representative for District 2 Wet Tropics/Cairns Marine, having undertaken these roles since December 2020. Connie is also an avid photographer with a strong interest in wildlife and nature photography. Many of the images featured in the RnR magazines are taken by Connie. Editor



What do you hope your legacy will be?

“Leaving the world a better place. Changing the public perception of bats.”

Fast facts!

Nickname
Bat woman

Star sign
Libra

What species of wildlife are you drawn to?
All bats

Describe yourself in 5 words
Caring, compassionate, conservationist, loves bats

Your favourite quote
Be kind to yourself

Do you have any pets?
1 small, old, half blind Toy poodle and a husband LOL

What is your field of employment?
Predominantly Office Administration but also caretake 2 Air BnB’s

What is your cheap and quick meal to go to?
Noodles

Do you have a website or social media page?

Daintree Life website
Daintreelife.com.au

Daintree Life Facebook page
Facebook.com/DaintreeLife

Wet Tropics Wildlife Rescue Facebook page
Facebook.com/WTWildlife



What advice would you like to give carers from your experience with words of wisdom and that which may be thought provoking?

No question is a dumb question. Always reach out to others. Simply ask if you aren't sure of anything. Always be willing to learn new methods, research and observe. Don't let yourself become overloaded. Ask for help and on the other side of that coin – reach out to other carers and support each other.

Do not beat yourself up when you lose animals. Unfortunately we cannot save them all. We all do our best, but sometimes we just can't perform miracles. Years ago someone pointed out to me that all wildlife that comes into our care would have been dead if it wasn't for us, the carers, therefore every animal that we are able to "get back out there" is a bonus.

Educate the public about our amazing wildlife – what people don't understand they fear – so eradicate the fear through education.

Find time for fun – do things that give you pleasure outside of wildlife care. And last but not least – we the carers are the best promotion of our wildlife – always present yourself professionally and politely.



Images courtesy Connie Pinson

Previous page, Connie planting trees on one of the many planting sites for the *Daintree Life* project

Above, Connie and Dave Pinson during the barbed wire demonstration at Fauna Rescue at Airlie Beach in 2021 with the Fauna Rescue bat mascot

Below, Connie Pinson presenting training in the Whitsundays in 2021 at Airlie Beach for Fauna Rescue Whitsundays taken during a barbed wire rescue demonstration

Image: Black-stripe Wallaby pinkie, Judy Elliott



1. You don't watch TV a lot, but you have wildlife hanging near the smart television and grandchildren visiting who want to watch cartoons? Grab a set of wireless headphones that will pair to the smart TV. \$30 at the Reject Shop, \$70 at Officeworks and top shelf at Harvey Normans for over \$200. **Tip!** The Reject Shop version performs the same as the top shelf set.



2. Recycle. Don't throw your bottles out when they can be used as browse water containers. Cut the bottle down to make the opening size you need. Large bottles for small aviaries, small single serve size bottle for cages.

TIPS N TRICKS

Information and images courtesy Terise Hungerford



3. Want to hang your pouched young in the ICU but you notice the walls of ICU units can be cool? Use a wide weaved basket appropriate to the size of your unit to hang the pouched young which allows the air to circulate. Always use another thermometer to ensure your pouched young are at the correct temperature.

Note: this photo was staged for the purpose of photographic visual demonstration – no animal was being housed within the ICU at the time of this photograph.

Email your handy Tip n Trick to editor@qwr.org.au to be featured in the next RnR



out & about

1 SEPTEMBER

National Wattle Day

Celebrate Australia and its land and people on the first day of spring. If you're in the Brisbane area check out bushwalks scheduled in the lead up to National Wattle Day, or read some wattle poetry.



THE GLOBAL WAGGLE DANCE CHALLENGE

The 2020 world record wagging attempt is an initiative of Rotary Club of Canterbury, Rotary for Bees and Whenee Bee Foundation.

Rotary Club of Canterbury Rotarians for BEES WHEEN BEE FOUNDATION

Waggle Dance music and lyrics and Buzz the Bee are copyright Rotary Club of Canterbury, Australia.

16 – 22 OCTOBER

Aussie Bird Count

Want to improve your bird ID skills, take a well deserved break and help gather data on trends in our bird communities? Then join in the annual Aussie Bird Count run by Birdlife Australia. Spend 20 minutes in your favourite outdoor space (local park or even your backyard), count the birds that you see and submit the results on the free Aussie Bird Count App or website. You can even win great prizes! Download the App on iTunes or Google Play. Find out more here.



11 – 19 NOVEMBER

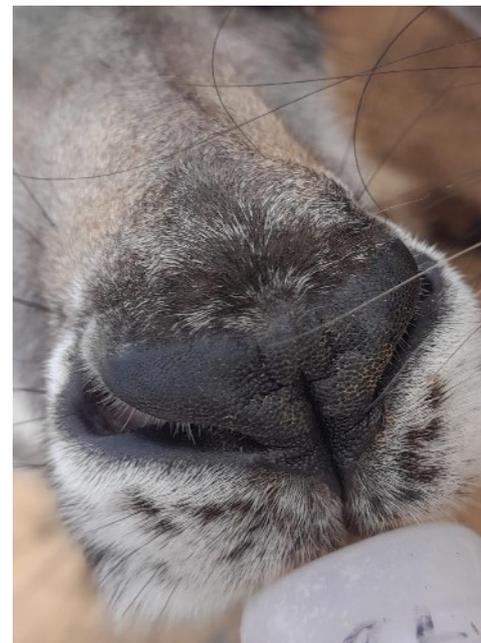
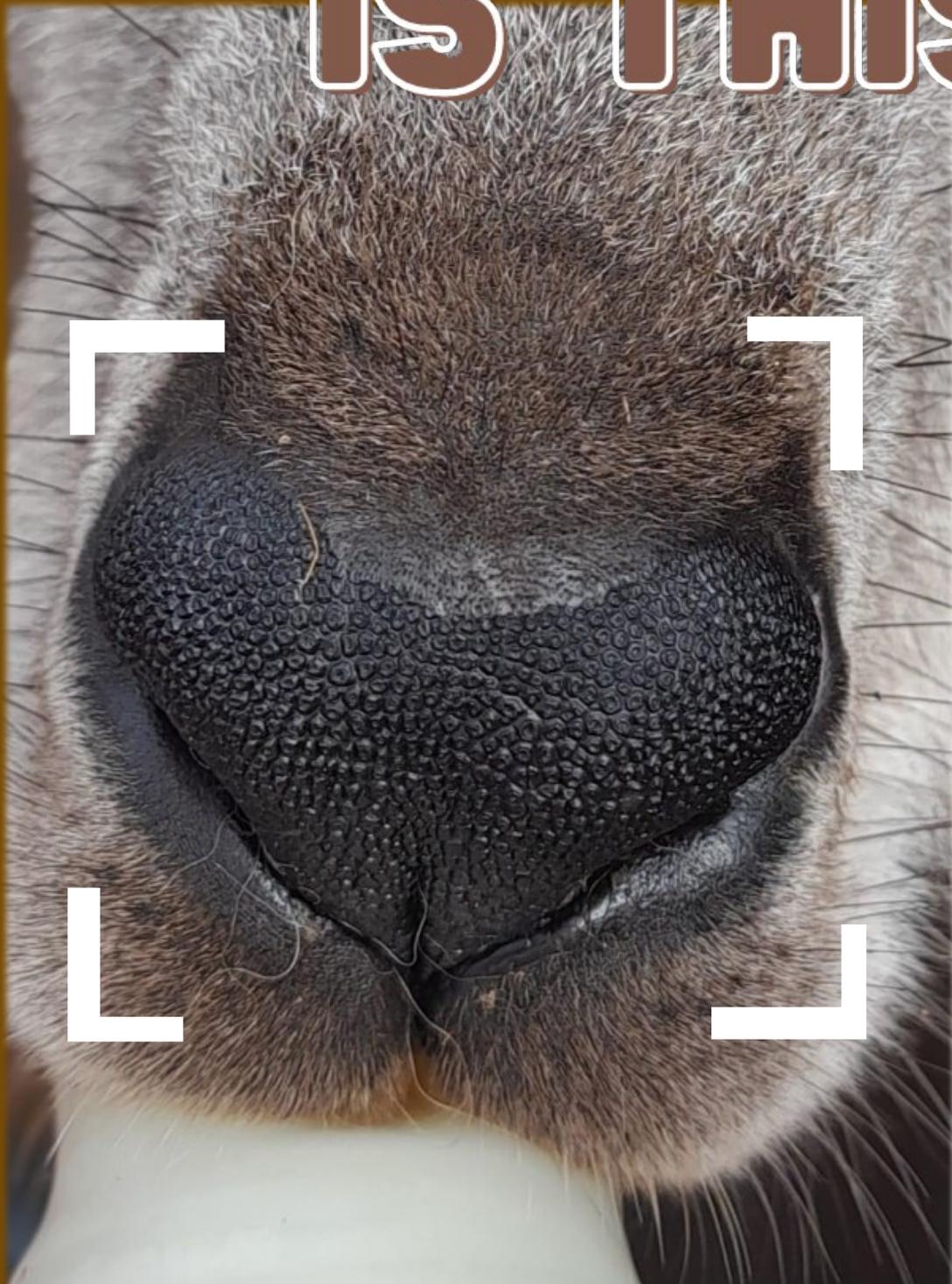
Global Waggle Dance Challenge

Learn the dance designed to mimic the way honeybees communicate and help highlight the crucial role bees play in pollination and food security. Did you know that one out of every three mouthfuls of food depends on bees? The challenge is open to everyone around the world, why not do this with a friend or group? Register for free on the Australian Pollinator Week website, learn the dance and upload your video and help reach the goal of 20,000 videos from 20 countries to represent the 20,000 species of bees!



Images: Top; Olive-backed Sunbird, Connie Pinson. Third from top; *Dillenia alata* (Red Beech), Connie Pinson. Bottom image; Australia's National Floral Emblem the Golden Wattle (*Acacia Pycnantha*) was gazetted in 1988.

WHO'S NOSE IS THIS?



Can you guess which macropods these noses belong to?

Orphaned due to road collisions, all 3 wiffly snouts have been in care with our QWRC Chairperson, Kim Palmer at Western Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation in Muttaborra for the past 12 months, and at the time of writing were still in care. **Check your answers on page 33.** Images courtesy Kim Palmer

Tips

ON BEING INCORPORATED



APPOINTING AN AUDITOR

Your group's records must be audited or verified each financial year.

This can be done by either a registered auditor who holds a valid registration as a registered company auditor under the Corporations Act with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).

You can also approach a Certified Accountant, but they must be certified members of one of the following organisations:

CPA Australia

Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia

or the Institute of Public Accountants

Alternatively you can request another person undertake the auditing or verifying, but you need to complete a [form](#) seeking approval for this from the Queensland Government.

Find out more [here](#).

KEEPING RECORDS

Your Association must keep financial records for at least 7 years. The 7 years starts from the date of the final entry in each record.

Association's must keep a:

Cash book

Receipt book

Bank statements

Petty cash book (only if you use petty cash)

Asset register

Journals and ledgers

Annual reports

Ensure you submit an annual return within 1 month of holding your annual general meeting.

Read more [here](#)



FREE GUIDE

The Office of Fair Trading has developed a 48-page booklet on how to start and develop an incorporated association. It's recommended to read this guide in conjunction with the Queensland Government's website.

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: Top, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Bottom, Queensland Nutmeg

WATCH & ACT



Wildlife Health Australia submit information from the Wildlife Health Information System to a quarterly publication called Animal Health Surveillance (AHSQ). This publication is produced by Animal Health Australia as part of Australia's national animal health information program.

The report includes information on the main wildlife disease incidents that have occurred around the country for that quarter. In the latest report from 1 July to 30 September 2022, 129 wildlife disease investigation events were reported. Of those events, 39 were for birds including free-ranging native and feral species, as well as a small number from zoological collections and captive breeding programs, along with targeted sampling for avian influenza. Of the birds investigated, species included Tawny Frogmouths, nightjars, osprey, hawks, herons and parrots amongst others. Read the [report](#) in full.

Images L - R: Connie Pinson, Tawny Frogmouth, Grey-headed Flying-fox



flying-fox paralysis syndrome

This syndrome was first noticed in December 2020 affecting Grey-headed, Little Red and Black Flying-foxes in South East Queensland and North East NSW.

Symptoms include paralysis, protruding tongues, inability to blink, respiratory distress – cause unknown. More cases are expected in the 2022/2023 summer.

Read more at [Wildlife Health Australia](#).

REPORT AN INCIDENT

If you see unusual signs of disease or deaths in wildlife contact the 24hour Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline **Freecall 1800 675 888**



CONNECT *with us*



QWRC Member Discussion Group

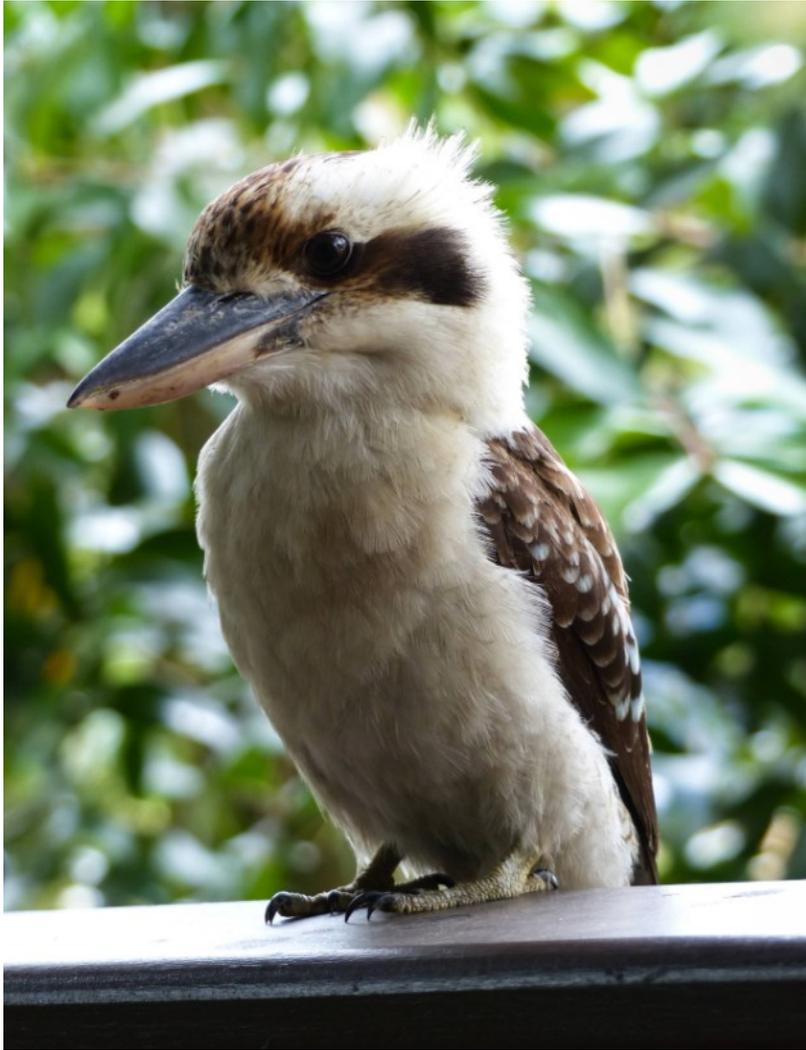
All QWRC members can join our friendly Facebook discussion group, ask questions, seek advice, share information and connect with other members. This is a private QWRC Member only group.

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (QWRC)

Discover wildlife care groups in Queensland, keep up to date with topical wildlife news, learn about wildlife, share photos and resources. This Facebook group is open to the public.

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council [Website](http://www.qwrc.org.au)

Read through emergency care information, download the Code of Practice, browse recommended reading and more. Members can access the members only area via a login. qwrc.org.au
Images clockwise, male Hercules Moth, Koala, Northern Brown Bandicoot courtesy Connie Pinson



QWRC member benefits

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

Image: Kookaburra, 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.

Best Practice Guidelines

Financial members have access to 12 Best Practice Guidelines in the Members only section of the QWRC website. Developed by QWRC these guidelines have been developed for rehabilitators and are reviewed every 3 years.

Topics include;

Euthanasia of native wildlife

Wildlife autopsy

Hygiene practices

What happens to animals that cannot be released?

Understanding your duty of care

Release of wildlife

Zoonosis

Guidelines for care of flying-fox orphans outside their geographical range

Wildlife in the workplace

Aviary and cage hygiene

Publication Policy

Wildlife in public areas

View or download the documents via the Members portal



Membership Benefits

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.

As a member you are eligible to vote at all QWRC elections and to nominate for a position as a Representative on the Committee.

Join or Renew

Help build a strong Council to advocate on your behalf by joining or renewing your QWRC membership today!

Join online or access a printable form below. Pay by direct debit to QWRC using your surname or group name as your reference.



Yes, I'd like to
join or renew my membership for **\$20AU**

Image: Juvenile male Victoria's Riflebird, Connie Pinson



WHAT'S OUT THERE?

Birdlife e-news

Birdlife Australia are working to protect and restore important habitats for birds. Through their Bird Conservation Strategy they are looking to stop the extinction of birds by 2032. Subscribe to Birdlife Australia's [e-news](#) for the latest conservation news and events.

NRM jobs

NRM jobs advertise vacancies in the areas of environment, water and natural resource management in Australia. Like them on Facebook to keep up to date with advertised jobs, just search 'NRMjobs', or look them up on the web at NRMjobs.com.au and search for jobs by State/Territory.

Free cat resources

Download and share these free coloured posters by the Threatened Species Recovery Hub which illustrate the impact of [urban cats](#) in Australia and the impact of [feral cats](#) across the nation. Read national population estimates and see which of our threatened species are targeted.

New Bird App

Hear a bird song and need help identifying it? Download the [ChirpOMatic App](#) for south-east Australia for the price of a high end coffee. You'll be provided with top matches along with photo's and calls. Bird-safe mode available on iOS systems. No subscriptions. Download via the App Store or Google Play.

Species in your area

Want to know what species live in your area?

1. Head to the Queensland Government [website](#)
2. Select either a National Park, your Local Government Area or a specific area
3. Tick whether you would like a plant list, animal list or both
4. Choose from native and/or introduced species
5. Provide your email address
6. Wait a few hours for the list to be generated and emailed to you



WHAT'S OUT THERE?

Kids Activity Book

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) has produced a free activity book for children aged 5 – 10- years.

14 threatened and iconic animals found on AWC sanctuaries and partnership areas across Australia are featured in this beautifully illustrated book.

Kids can complete dot-to-dot activities and colouring in, do a word search, crossword and maze, create a mask, learn wildlife facts and more.

Download your free [copy](#).

Explore more kids activities in the [Kids Corner](#).

Learn more about the AWC and their [conservation programs](#).

Top image courtesy Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Photography grant

Closes 30 September 2023

The *Wildlife Queensland Wayne Lawler Nature Conservation Photography Grant* encourages amateur Australian photographers to partner with a community/environmental group helping the group gain exposure for their conservation project.

Successful applicants will receive \$2,000 that can be used towards non-equipment costs such as travel, consumables and computer related software.

This is a great opportunity to enhance your skill set in nature photography while promoting community-based nature conservation projects.

Check your eligibility to apply, read the grant guidelines and access the application form [here](#)

Free downloads

Bimblebox Nature Refuge in central west Queensland is composed of almost 8000 hectares of remnant semi-arid woodlands. Home to the endangered Black Throated Finch, and hundreds of animals, the refuge is threatened by coal mining. Ecologist and artist Paula Peetes visited Bimblebox and created grassy woodland, canopy birds and squirrel glider [colouring in sheets](#) to help raise awareness of this significant site.

For more colouring in sheets and books and ideas for nature journaling visit Paula's [website](#).

Who's nose is this?

Answers

From page 26

Main image Common Wallaroo

Top right Eastern Grey Kangaroo

Bottom right Red Kangaroo



Are you transporting wildlife in line with the Code of Practice?

The *Code of Practice, Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland, Nature Conservation Act 1992* ensures that the activities of those involved in the care and rehabilitation of native animals in Queensland result in the best possible conservation and animal welfare outcomes for rehabilitated animals and the wild populations they are returned to.

When transporting animals to a veterinary surgery or between rehabilitation facilities or to a release site, ensure you are meeting the following guidelines.

9.2.6 Wildlife must not be transported in a vehicle's boot that is separate from the main cabin without ventilation.

9.2.7 Non-compatible species, such as predator and prey combinations must not be transported in a manner that allows physical or visual contact.

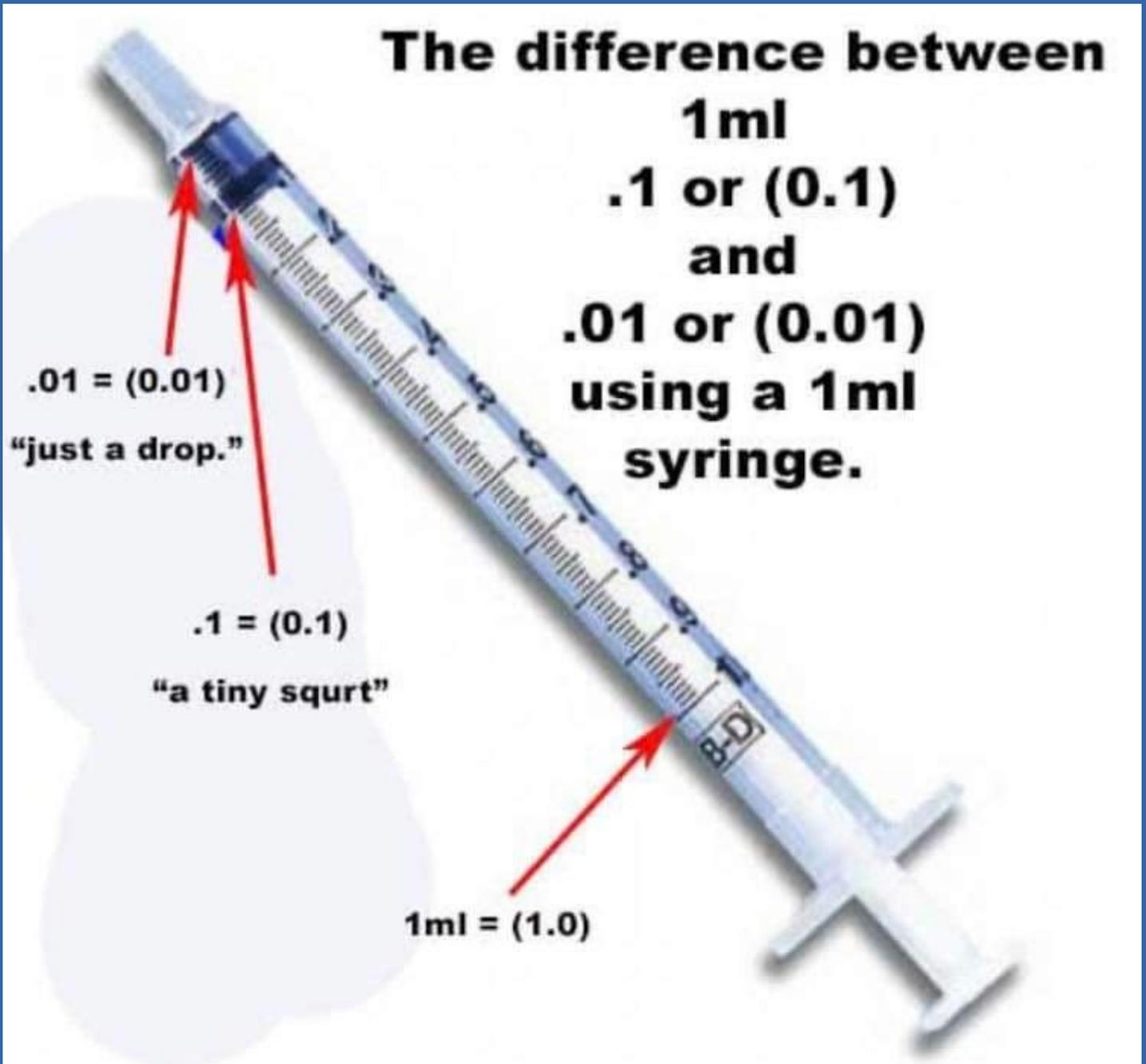


Transport containers that hold species that are dangerous, venomous or capable of transmitting potentially fatal zoonoses must be clearly marked with a warning label such as "Caution – venomous snake" or "Caution – live bat", and must be locked and secured. **Section 9.2.5**



**View or download
the Code of
Practice**





Thank you to Doug Stuart at *Help From Experienced Carers for Possums and Aussie Wildlife* Facebook group for this handy image on syringe measurements.

MOVING HOUSE OR
CHANGING YOUR
EMAIL?

DON'T FORGET
TO LET US KNOW!

EMAIL
SECRETARY@QWRC.ORG.AU

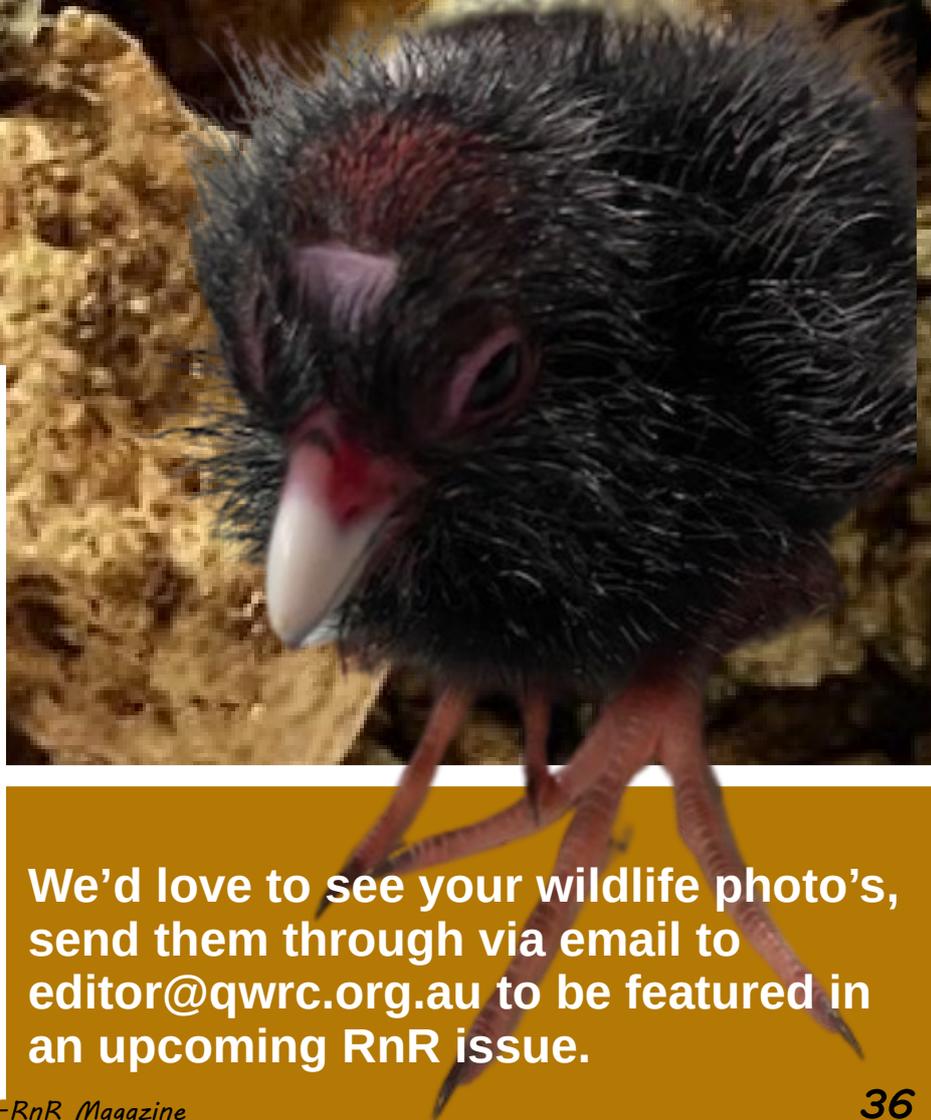
Image: Rainbow Lorikeet,
Connie Pinson

Permits

Please note that the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council is not a wildlife care group and does not issue permits to wildlife carers. Permits are available from either the Department of Environment and Science (DES) or wildlife rehabilitation groups if they hold a group permit.

Clockwise: Eastern Bearded Dragon hatchling, Purple Swamphen chick, snake poo

Thank you
to QWRC Representative Lana Field from District 11 for sending in these photos



We'd love to see your wildlife photo's, send them through via email to editor@qwrc.org.au to be featured in an upcoming RnR issue.