

WILDLIFE TALES



MARCH 2015



Wildlife Tales is the official newsletter of
Wildlife Animal Rescue & Care Society Inc.

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NEXT MEETING:

15 March 2015, 10 am
Special General meeting
& Constitution

then 19 April 2015, 10 am

*General Meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday in the month at 10 am,
at Wyoming Community Centre, 147 Maiden Brush Rd, Wyoming*

Snake Head Carer Report

G'day everyone,

The snake calls have slowly been coming in again. I've been getting calls here and there but I've been letting a few of the other members have a go so that they can gain more experience. We're still getting calls for Carpet pythons which must not be released on the Central coast, it's important that you let me know about surrendered, lost and illegal snakes.

I'm planning on running another snake training day Saturday 14th March at 375 Matcham Road, Matcham. I will need to know how many members definitely want to attend the training and who is interested in moving up to venomous snake rescuing and caring so please get in touch with me if you would like to attend.

I did get an interesting call about 3 weeks ago for a Diamond python at Mt Elliot which was coiled up around 27 eggs right next to a man's front door step. She had laid her eggs in the wrong place and she was scaring the man's wife and daughter so she had to be moved. I brought both the snake and eggs home, the female Diamond stayed in care with me for a while and eventually fed as she had lost a lot of weight after laying the clutch, while I put the eggs into the incubator. The mother Diamond was released after I was able to fatten her up but about 2 weeks after I got the call, I walked past my incubator one afternoon and decided to check the eggs.... and they had started to hatch! A few days later, all 27 hatchling Diamonds were released.

Cheers, Dave Cooney, Snake HC



Reptile / Snake Training Day

Time: 9.00am

Date: 14/03/2015

Location: 375 Matcham
Road Matcham

RSVP via ARC database



Bird Carer Report

Logged calls for birds

Feb 2015 to 14th	43
Jan 2015	125

Currently there are 96 birds in care including 32 Lorikeets, 8 Tawney Frogmouths, 8 Galahs and 6 Ducks. The number of birds coming in to care is starting to drop as summer is coming to an end.

Migratory birds will be heading north in the next few weeks so any still in care need to be released very soon to ensure they are flight fit for the journey ahead of them. These include Koels, Dollarbirds and Channel bill Cuckoos.

Another migratory bird that infrequently comes into care is the White-throated Needletail – Australia's largest swift.

These beautiful birds breed in Northern Asia and Japan and arrive in Eastern Australia late in October. They feed only whilst flying and hunt insects ahead of summer storms. They are also attracted to bushfires where they feed on insects around the smoke clouds. They cling to vertical surfaces instead of perching and rest on trees trunks during the night. An exhausted Needletail recently came into care and after a couple of days rest was released ahead of a storm.

A juvenile Peregrine Falcon has also been in care recently. This gorgeous bird presented with a sore foot and a small graze on the cere. I called her/him Bonnie after the street she was found in. She was very docile initially and also very hungry but after feasting on mice and quail for a week was flying well and displaying behaviours which indicated she was ready for release. The release went smoothly, although the sudden appearance of a raptor startled a group of magpies that mobbed her forcing her to land in a tree. She took a few minutes to recover and get her bearings then she flew away.

Peregrine Falcons are fast and powerful in flight and swoop on their prey from above. They hunt any bird that flies in the open but most often take pigeons or other flocking birds. They will also take rabbits and other small mammals that are out in the open during the day.



Needletail



Peregrine Falcon

I would like to welcome Jessica Brodie and Royce Sayers as apprentice bird carers. Both have recently completed training and are ready to lend a hand. Helen Coy will also be attending training in the next week and will be added to the Bird Carers List as well. Many thanks to Michelle Chandler who has jumped in to bird caring, organised ox-heart for me when Coles stopped stocking it, and has promised me she will take on at least 10 magpies next season. Thanks also to those who took on a bird or two this season even though they are not officially on the bird list, and to all our marvelous bird carers who give so much at this time of year.

We always need more bird carers . If you are interested please contact Jacky Hunt on 0409621452 to organise some one-on-one training until the next training day is scheduled.

Kirkaldy the Tawny Frogmouth

It is not unusual for young Tawnies to come into care but Kirkaldy is a special case. This bird was one of two that hatched in a tree in Kathy Kirkaldy's backyard and was watched closely by the Kirkaldy family. Both babies were doing well until one of the parent birds disappeared, presumably hit by a car. The remaining parent continued to care for both her young but the older baby received the lions share of food and when it came time to fledge Kirkaldy was unable to fly and ended up on the ground. His mother flew off with his sibling but returned to feed him intermittently. Unfortunately a few days later a Tawny was found dead on the road and Kirkaldy was left to fend for himself, although a bird that was thought to be his sibling did feed him for a day. Kathy and her family contacted Wildlife ARC concerned about the condition of this poor little bird and rightly so. He was very skinny, much smaller in size than he should have been and his feathers are quite literally falling apart. Kirkaldy is going to be in care for quite some time. He needs to moult and replace the damaged feathers before he will be able to fly and may then have to be taught to hunt if his instincts have suffered. Fingers crossed that all goes well for him and he hasn't suffered permanent damage to any of his organs or senses due to the lack of proper nutrition.



The rescue of “Braveheart”

My intentions this Australia Day 2015 was to spend time with family and friends down by the waters' edge at Point Clare and if I was lucky maybe a spot of fishing but the weather changed all that.

Little did I know when I awoke early that morning I would be spending 6hrs at Point Clare trying to catch something on the end of a fishing line that wasn't a fish.

I awoke early, checked in on all the rescue animals in care then proceeded to make my first morning coffee. Then suddenly I heard the tones of my mobile phone blaring in the living room.

A frantic Gloria was on the other end of the phone explaining to me that there was a galah caught in a tree with fishing line wrapped around one of its legs and wrapped around the tree branch. At that point he had been caught up there for 24hrs but lucky for him his parents were coming in to feed him. I advised her to try and get a hold of a fire brigade and that I would meet them at the location.

Upon my arrival I was greeted by the lady who called the phone line and the fire brigade. The commander had assessed the situation and they were unable to get their truck to where the tree was and none of their ladders were long enough to reach the bird which was 50-60 foot up in the branch. I phoned Gloria back and informed her of our problem and suggested she try the SES. Whilst she called them I hit Facebook and put out the plea for help. I received a few suggestions of tree lopping companies to call so I began calling them like my life depended on it.

Being a public holiday I doubted it was going to be easy. No luck there. Gloria was frantically working her fingers to the bone on the phone at her end, I was ringing everyone I could think of who might have an idea. Lorrain was left at home to feed and baby-sit the birds and to call anyone else we could think of. Things were looking pretty dim from where I was.

During all of this the bird's parents were constantly coming back to check on their distressed youngster. Occasionally a kookaburra would come and sit on the branch nearby as if to assess the situation and reassure the youngster that things would be ok. Every now and then the young one would attempt to fly away only to end up entangling himself in the fishing line even more.

My heart sank even further knowing that there wasn't much I could do and things weren't getting better and the rain was getting heavier.

Then it happened. A Miracle, an answer to our prayers. Gloria phoned to tell me that the guy from the SES hadn't put our problem in the "too hard basket" and that he had been calling everyone he knew. Gloria told me a guy called Chris Foster was on his way to check out what he needed to do to help us.

Chris arrived and once he told me he could get the bird down he became my knight in shining armour. He went and got his truck and climbing gear and returned 20 minutes later.

To be honest I had given up all hope of meeting this young galah in person. Chris began setting up his gear and my heart lifted all the way up the tree with every step he took. Finally at the height of the branch Chris swung himself closer to the bird than I thought possible. Following my instructions he placed a pillow case over the bird and cut the fishing line from the branch.



Slowly my knight in shining armour lowered the galah down to my waiting arms. Gently I unraveled the huge amount of fishing line from his leg. Once free he rewarded me with a "love" bite but I didn't care.

I showed the lady who made the call to Gloria that he was free and she named him Braveheart.

We discovered after all of this that it was the first time Chris had never done a bird rescue but watching him you would have thought he had done plenty of them.

Chris Foster became a true Aussie hero that day and I can't thank him enough.

On a lighter note I finally got my morning coffee at 3.45pm that afternoon.

Cheers

Yvonne Naftel and Braveheart.



This also made the news – click here for the link to the Daily Telegraph story ☺

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/central-coast/tangled-galah-braveheart-survives-dramatic-treetop-rescue-in-point-clare/story-fngr8h0p-1227200836821>

 **C-kayak**
Ph: 4324 2867
www.southernadventures.com.au

Phonies Report

We have all heard and been amazed at the incredible rescue and care of 'Braveheart', the baby galah so courageously rescued by Chris Foster, and our sincere thanks go to him. We should also remember the incredible diligence of one of the 'back room' people, i.e. the Phonie. Gloria whom I'm sure you all know, did an absolutely fabulous job - not giving up after 3 or 4 calls, but spending 3 plus hours racking her brain (and others) looking for a solution for this poor bird caught by fishing line 50ft high in a tree. Eventually it was through one of her calls that triggered someone's memory who then contacted Chris, and the rest, as they say, is history. So on behalf of all of us, thank you Gloria.

I am also very happy to say we have new phonies who have started with us. They are: Helen Coy, Sara Neale and Sara Horne. Welcome ladies we wish you all the best – you've got a hard act to follow.

Being a Phonie has its own rewards – you get a very broad picture of what animals are in need and the satisfaction of being able to place these needy animals with sympathetic carers who then work their magic in aiding their recovery to enable them being returned to the wild. It does involve 5 hours of your time, preferably once a week, but fortnightly is great too, so please give it some thought.

Once again: Thank you everyone, we all know... 'Without the Phonie, the animal wouldn't come into care.'

Lesley Hale
Phone Coordinator

Possum Report

Hi everyone,

All is well in the possum world!!

Kathy assures me this is our quiet season but still we have a steady influx and carers are now starting to take on their new charges after having said goodbye to the old ones and sending them off to their release sites.

A big thankyou to all our supervisors in the possum section and I am sure that we will be relying on you more in the coming months.

Also a big thankyou to Alison George and Simone Barwick the two possum rescue/carers who never seem to say no, and who also have been a wonderful help in organising new carers for us.

Stay tuned for our training day which will hope to set a date on soon.

Again thank you very much from
Kathy Varman and Sharron Jones
Head carer and Deputy Head Carer of the Possum section.

Fundraising & Promotions Report

The Brisbane Waters Oyster Festival – Sunday 9 November 2014

Wildlife Arc was lucky enough to get a stall at The Brisbane Waters Oyster Festival - 9 November 2014...
4 words...WOW...WHAT A DAY!

We got there early to set up and we really didn't know what to expect as none of us had been to this festival before. There was a buzz in the air and the atmosphere was energetic bordering on frenzy as all the stall holders were madly setting up for the day. Nearly 30 000 people attended this festival and it felt like we saw all of them!

The morning started well...lots of people walked past and wanted to look and learn more about Wildlife ARC. As per usual, Fluffy was the star of the day.

The day didn't go without mishap though... Roger the Blue Tongue decided he needed to express himself down Caroline's top – not once, but twice... luckily Jon and Helen always come prepared and Caroline got to wear a surf shirt 5 times bigger than what she was! Oh the joys of working with animals...

Thank you for those who turned up to give us a hand – it was greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you again in upcoming markets and festivals!

For those of you who are wondering what it is we do – basically we:

- * Talk to the public about what Wildlife Arc does in the community with the rescue and care of animals
- * Helping with the display of the educational animals
- * Handing out leaflets, stickers and magnets
- * Talking to the public about being a volunteer and encouraging new members

At the moment Volunteers are working one market every 3 months (that's only 4 markets per year). If you can offer any assistance - it would be a huge help. All upcoming markets and festivals will be in the database calendar and an email sent out to all members. Alternately please contact either Helen Davis or Jon Dougherty for further information.

For members that are holding educational animals – we will be contacting you throughout the year to organise the animals that are listed on the register to be available at these events as we need to be able to rotate the animals that we are using to give them a break.

Please note: Market Day guidelines have also been drawn up and are available to be viewed on the database.

Have a great year everyone and we hope to see you at a Market or Festival real soon!

Nearly 30,000 people attended the 2014 Brisbane Water Oyster Festival, the biggest attendance the festival has had since it began. The Wildlife ARC stand was easily one of the most popular there!

Helen & Jon
Media Liaison



Upcoming Promos

11 April
2015 Narara Ecoburbia Festival
Narara Valley High School
Cnr Fountains and Pandela Rd
Narara
10-4pm

2-3rd May-TBC
Gosford Regional Show
Gosford Showground

Frogs, Lizards & Turtles Report

I received a call from our hard working phonie Gloria. A member of the public had found an injured Bluey in their backyard, they were happy to drop it in at our place. The lizard arrived in a small box covered with a wash cloth, I thought given the size of the box that it could not be a Blue Tongue. I took off the wash cloth revealing a tiny 'baby bluey' about 6cm long. It had cat attack puncture marks and a lump on its back, potentially indicating a broken spine – it was in bad shape. I began treating the puncture marks with diluted betadine and quickly learned that it could fully move its back legs and tail – the spine was not broken. Over the course of its treatment the puncture marks have been healing well and the back lump has been steadily reducing in size. He loves his food and is growing larger every day. I hope to release the little fella soonish.



Before



After



Cat wounds on lower back

A phonie passed me a call regarding an injured turtle that was currently at a member of the public's house. I sent ARC rescuer Chris K to pick up the turtle and report on the injuries. The turtle was bleeding from a number of minor cracks throughout the base of its shell and looked like it had been hit by a car. Chris brought the turtle to me to examine and we came up with a plan. We cleaned the cracks and then affixed the shell using surgical strapping. Gluing turtle shells can cause problems – glue when applied to the cracks contains tiny air bubbles which can become breeding grounds for infection causing bacteria and diseases like shell rot. The turtle stayed in Chris's capable care, he kept watch for infections and other complications, while getting the turtle to feed again. Christmas rolled around; the turtle was passed to a one of our new carers Renee H. Renee did an excellent job, and put in lots of hard work to get the turtle ready for release. She got the turtle hunting for crickets, checked for infections and kept me updated on the shell's progress. When the shell had fused again, we removed the strapping and the turtle was successfully released.

Tristan Varman
Mentor Frogs, Lizards and Turtles

POSITIONS VACANT

Bird Head Carer & Lizard/Turtle/Frog Head Carer

If you are interested in this position please apply in writing to the Secretary at the ARC Postal Address or [ARC Secretary's email: arc@wildlife-arc.org.au](mailto:arc@wildlife-arc.org.au)

WITHOUT THE PHONIES...

I WOULD NOT
HAVE COME
INTO CARE



Please consider becoming a Phonie
It only means a few hours – once a week, once a fortnight or even once a month it all helps.
Please phone Lesley Hale on 4359 1615, or email at halelesley2012@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIPS

YOU MUST BE A FINANCIAL MEMBER TO CARE AND RESCUE.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE ARC WEBSITE www.wildlife-arc.org.au

MEMBERSHIP FEES CAN BE PAID BY DIRECT DEPOSIT, CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM AND MEMBERSHIP FEES TO THE ARC POST OFFICE BOX ADDRESS.

NEW MEMBERS PAY MEMBERSHIP AND A \$5.00 JOINING FEE

RENEWALS ARE DUE 30TH JUNE EACH YEAR.

NOTE: If you renew by direct deposit then you are not financial until a completed form is received.

FOOD STORE

All ARC members can place an order for ARC food on the ARC Data Base.

We now have two locations;

North store (located in Mannering Park) and

Central store (located at 15 Teralba Street, Ourimbah).

Bird food will only be sold at the end of the ARC meeting at Wyoming.

If you do not have a computer please phone either store and place an order.

Ordering on the ARC Database - When you log on to your database you will see a new section called ARC Food Store.

From this section you can make an order and track your previous orders. You will also be able to see the new and updated price list!

NOTE. Only members with ARC animals in care can order food. You must have that species in care and be approved by HC or a Mentor.

BIRD food is only supplied for 4 months for each bird.

Lastly, we need everybody to know that there will be no accounts or credit.

All items must be paid for before collection (by Direct debit) or (cash) when you pick your order up.

Thanks, Patty & Lesley

ANIMAL RECORDS

Please be aware that all your animal records are to be brought up to date. If you still aren't able to use the database please contact Kelly Hunt or Kathy Varman.

USEFUL WEBSITES TO HELP IDENTIFY

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>
Birds in Backyards

<http://www.mdahlem.net/birds/index.php>
Michael Dahlem's Bird Pages

Don't forget the ARC database has a local species gallery as well. If we all contribute pictures of the birds we care for, especially baby birds, this will become an invaluable resource for us all.