

WILDLIFE TALES



JULY 2015

RIP FAITHFUL WORKERS



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

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NEXT MEETING:

18th July 2015 at 10 am then 16th August 2015 at 10 am

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

RIP KATHY VARMAN



Kathy nursing a possum, part of the Wildlife ARC program

Kathy sadly passed away on the 30th of May after battling cancer for many months.

Kathy's contribution to the ARC was tireless and her heart for the animals and ARC members was unquestionable.

Many hours were spent over the months and years that Kathy was part of the ARC on the phones with Kathy counselling a carer who had lost a baby possum or calming a dispute that may have arose. Her patience was never ending. Without Kathy's attention in these areas I feel that ARC would not have had the team spirit in such abundance as we see in many areas of the ARC now.

Kathy played a huge role in the ARC as both the head carer of the Possum section and as Chairperson roles that she took much pride in overseeing. Whenever I would meet up with Kathy for appointments or to just spend time with her she would ask me how everyone was, how all the animals were and how everything was going. Right up until the end when I had to keep saying "don't worry about things it is all fine" she would continue to worry and ask how things were.

We can never replace what we have lost in losing this special and lovely lady, someone who I personally called a true and dear friend. But as Kathy being the nurturer and mother that she was



to both humans and

animals alike she left us all being ready to take on those jobs that she can no longer do.

Kathy we will work hard to make you proud and to carry on loving those orphan animals that come in to our care.

Thank you Kathy for all you taught us with both skills in caring for the animals and skills in dealing with each other!!

Kathy you will be sadly missed.

Sharron Jones



RIP GWEN PARRY-JONES



Gwenllyn Daisy Parry-Jones b 1924 ~ d 2015

Today we are saying good bye to my mother. And celebrating her life.

And most likely you know her because of her various activities on the Coast.

You might know her because she founded the Wildlife ARC in 1987 and has been active rescuing and rehabilitating native animals, especially flying-foxes, ever since. This was taken at the ARC's 25th Birthday. Still going strong mainly because of the way she set it up.

You might know her because, after the dreadful death of her much loved eldest grandchild on the railway tracks at Lisarow station, she founded the Andrew Bridge Committee for Child Safety in 1991. This organisation lobbied and agitated in many ways for safer school access for children. Railway and road footbridges, railway line fencing, zebra crossings and school zone speed limits all resulted. And much of this necessary activity had its genesis in the ABC's submissions. As a result she was invited to give a

paper on the Committee's success in the USA at an international safety conference.

You might know her because of her political work: her work for many years as the Treasurer of the Liberal Party's Ladies Auxillary or her subsequent conversion to the other side as a founding member of the Central Coast Greens. This resulted in her standing for the Greens at the State Election in 2003.

You might know her because of her work in conservation, her presence on Gosford Council's COSS and Environment Committees, on NPWS Committees or her many articles in the Press supporting the environment in one way or another.

Or as the Bat Lady for her championship of flying-foxes and for the recognition of their ecological importance.

Or for the OAM she was awarded in 2010 for services to conservation.

However it is amazing BUT all these activities occurred AFTER she retired.

So we thought today we should tell you a little of her life, before:

She was born Gwenllyn Daisy Baines. The Gwenllyn (the Welsh form of Gwendolen) was after her grandmother.

She was dux and champion runner at the end of Primary School. In her time and place this was all the formal schooling most children got. From there the boys became labourers or were apprenticed and the girls took unskilled jobs until they were married. Despite her mother's objections Gwen accepted the place she had got at a selective school and travelled the couple of hours every day to go to St George. She was in their hockey team and their debating team. When she was 15 she was the last speaker for the opposition in a debate that was "That Chamberlin is wrong and we will not have "peace in our time". Mum had a wonderful time demolishing the government's case and firmly declaring that Chamberlin was right and his actions would bring long lasting peace. However they lost the debate. Hitler had invaded Poland overnight and War had been declared.

She left St George with her Intermediate Certificate. She would have liked to go on, but the Leaving Certificate and University were bridges too far. Instead she went to Business College and got qualifications in Shorthand, Typing and Book-keeping.

She got a job as the Private Secretary (PA) to the Head of the Prices Commission and in her spare time did a Tech course on Dress Making, Designing and Millenary. One of the many soldiers who formed part of her court started to become more interesting. He was tall (well taller than her), dark, handsome, of Welsh extraction and a fantastic dancer He was Stanley John William Parry-Jones. They were married on the 24th August 1946.

RIP GWEN *continued...*

Dad finished his electrical contractors qualifications while Mum taught knitting and needlework in a local school. Then they moved to Ashfield and Mum became the main designer at Jeanette Underwear. She believed she was the first to design the half slip and Children's dressing gowns that buttoned up rather than tied. In an era when married women were often fired from work and pregnant ladies were expected to stay at home, Mum was designing well into her first pregnancy. The girls working there used to joke that the ambulance would come for her and her boss would race behind it pleading "Mrs Parry-Jones, just one more design, just one".

With small kids needing looking after at home, Mum started catering for her relations big parties: The 21st and the weddings. Soon the business grew outside the family and the Mountbatten Catering Service was born. Over the next decade it grew to the point where catering for 12 weddings on a Saturday was not unusual. Dad joined her and they bought up both Marshalls and Bentleys Catering Service to give them a cheaper alternative for balls and dances.

The owner of our wedding cars had a race horse and soon Mum and Dad joined him and became the proud owners of "Billy" alias "Breezaire". A carrot eating member of the family whose winnings enabled Mum and Dad to buy some land at Erina which was finally our farm. However in 1962 disaster struck. Mum was hit by a car outside the shop they then owned and for 7 years was an invalid with brain damage which the doctors said would kill her in "a few years". The residual damage IS probably the reason for her death. But the doctors underestimated her staying power.

The clot shifted. She regained her abilities and she decided to go back to teaching.

That day she had read some shocking news in the local paper. Two little interstate kids, orphaned in a car accident were kept overnight at the police station until their relations could be contacted. So when she climbed up the stairs at the Valencia Arcade in Gosford and saw one arrow pointing, to the Department of Education on the right and another pointing to the Welfare Department on the left. She turned left. Someone was going to be told how wrong that response was. How unfeeling and how psychologically damaging. She came out of the office as an employee of Welfare and the owner of a remand home, where children who needed a safe place with a kind family could temporarily stay. A lot of desperate children came through our home over the next few years.

In the mid 1970s Mum got a job as Subscriptions Manager at Choice Magazine in Sydney. The subscription files were all held on computer. But in the 1970s and early 1980s this involved a huge machine in a closed room with a sprung floor and its own air conditioner. One of Mum's jobs was to take the 2 big reels of recorded information off the machine each night and lock them in the safe. The entire main frame computer probably had only a fraction of the capacity of a phone today but then it was technology at its best.

Meanwhile the farm was becoming a reality. Parts were cleared and cows and goats introduced. Mum did a tech course on Vet Nursing, Animal Husbandry and Zoo-keeping so that she could look after the animals on the farm. With her kids off her hands, Mum got her first car licence at 60 and let her hair go white in preparation for a retirement where she would be independent and look like a grandmother when her grandkids were born. She loved kids. And animals. A friend said "Gwen, something has to be under 4ft tall or covered in fur to get your



RIP GWEN *continued...*



attention”. In retirement she was looking forward to playing with her animals and using her new veterinary nursing skills on any needy domestic or native animals that came her way. But she did much much more.

She should be an inspiration to anyone reaching retirement age!

I got some beautiful white roses from the NSW Wildlife Council yesterday with the accompanying card praising Mum as a “Great Wildlife Warrior”.

I thought the military analogy rather apt. Mum certainly girded up her loins and went into battle if she saw something unjust or unfair or environmentally damaging and she had the intelligence, strength and charisma to lead others into battle with her. And the ability to be effective when she was there.

But she didn’t look for fights. They came to her. She used to say “Why Me?” “Why aren’t other people standing up and screaming?” But the concept that you could see something wrong and not act against it was not comprehensible to her. She didn’t have that innate caution that rules most of us. Not to get involved. Not to cause problems. She really believed that

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

Gwen died in her sleep early in the morning of 3/7/2015.

She is survived by her three children, Kerryn, Scott and Sue,

her 7 surviving grandchildren, Joel, Ryan, Todd, Skye, Michael, Christopher and Keelan
and her 4 great grandchildren, Lucius, Ruth, Ethan and Sarah.

As well as her 2 dogs, Mei Li and Nyeusi

Her 25 captive flying-foxes and

Untold numbers of wild animals that got their second chance of life from her or the carers of the Wildlife Animal Rescue and Care Society Inc.

No flowers please, donations to the Wildlife ARC deeply appreciated.

*by Kerryn Parry-Jones
taken from the Eulogy given at Gwen’s funeral*

TREE CHEERS FOR KATHY



Greetings fellow ARC people,

As most of us now know we lost our wonderful friend, fellow carer and chairperson, Kathy Varman, to cancer a few weeks ago.

We would like to honour her in a way that we think she would really like and we have some donation money for that purpose.

At the ARC meeting on Sunday I suggested we spend that money on planting food and habitat trees on various ARC members properties - trees that would ultimately provide shelter and food for wildlife, particularly those that Kathy loved the most - bats and possums.

The ARC members at the meeting liked this idea so we've decided to run with it.

As a horticulturist I am happy to organise the trees and I have a few good sources of plants. Tubes ie small plants in small pots start at \$3.50 each.

More advanced plants are more expensive, depending on their size.

I am hoping to get a good selection of plants, big and small, tubes and advanced, for us to plant on Kathy's behalf.

What we need is for anyone who would like to plant a little grove of trees and shrubs on behalf of Kathy, on their properties, to let me know.

So far Kerry and Sue, Alison and her family, Sharon and Scott, Patty and Tony, Jan Brazel and a couple of other people have expressed an interest in planting trees/shrubs/groves.

(So many trees have been felled since the big storm that we need to counteract this trend asap.)

Also, whether you'd like to plant some trees or not, if you can contribute to the tree fund, please do! Jan Brazel is happy to receive any donations for this purpose.

Even \$3.50 will one day feed some possums, birds, flying-foxes, etc!

We actually thought we might have a few tree-planting gatherings to celebrate Kathy's life, her commitment to wildlife and the future of her (and our) beloved creatures.

Plants we are hoping to have in our groves include Banksias, Bottlebrush, Eucalypts and their cousins, Grevilleas, Lilly Pillies, Melaleucas, Tea-trees, etc and can be tailored to suit each site - wet/dry, hilly/swampy, big/small, etc.

I have been thinking of Kathy and her family every day for months now. I still am and I miss her presence in my life and in the life of our wonderful organisation.

I can't think of a better way to celebrate her life than to help to give life to the animals she loved.

If you would like to donate to this worthy cause contact us via our website www.wildlife-arc.org.au

Jessi Grace.

SNAKE REPORT



G'day everyone,

Things have slowed right down with the activity of wild snakes, I've been giving a fair bit phone advice out since winter started and I don't have any wild reptiles in care with me at the moment. When spring arrives and the weather starts to heat up again, it'll be all hands on deck when the calls start

flooding in towards the end of the year. I also plan on running another training session after winter.

For those of you that do have snakes in care, keep them warm, clean and dry and you shouldn't have any further problems. Never release an injured or ill snake during winter, hold onto it and release it in spring when the time is right. I like to put the health and safety of the animals first.

There are 1 or 2 snake members that haven't updated their records so please try and remember to check them at least once a week and keep on top of them so I don't have chase them up.

Otherwise, thank you all for your efforts. Keep up the good work guys!

Cheers
Dave Cooney
Snake HC
0431 429 078



The Diamond Python above is in care at the moment with a kink in its spine due to an altercation with a bobcat while trying to hibernate. As you can see from the top pic it is healing nicely and will be released in the spring.

PHONIES REPORT - JUNE 2015

Once again the phonies have pulled together to give us full coverage, 24/7, so I give them a very big thank you.

I'm sure we all realise the importance of the first contact the MOP has with our organisation and without our dedicated crew, things undoubtedly would not run as smoothly as it does.

Having said that, I must add that things have been fairly quiet over the last month or so, and with winter now with us, I believe this trend will continue. Whether this is because of loss of habitat with our expanding community, or perhaps the animals/birds are more inclined to be tucked up I don't know, but let's hope the trend continues.

Lesley Hale
Phone Coordinator



AGM NOTICE

Please be advised that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday 20th September, 2015 at Wyoming Community Centre, 147 Maidens Brush Road, WYOMING at 10.00am. The General Meeting will follow. If you wish to nominate for any positions on the Committee the forms are obtainable from the Database or the Website. All are welcome to attend. Hoping to see you there.

Jan Brazel
Treasurer

OUT AND ABOUT



Gosford Show



Incubator purchased with donation from myroadkill



Meeting with Lucy Wicks MP



Release of Kyla the possum



OUR GWEN



The Wildlife ARC has lost its founder and patron Gwen Parry-Jones. Gwen has been increasingly unwell over the last few months and despite her willpower and the efforts of her family, her doctors and nurses, she passed away in her sleep in the wee hours of Friday morning 3rd of July. Most of us in Wildlife ARC knew Gwen as a shaker and mover in our organization. We knew she cared about animals and loved children, we knew she was passionate about educating people and especially the young about conservation and wildlife. Some of us more recent additions to ARC might only remember her as our elder stateswoman – she nearly made it to 91, but those of us who have been involved in wildlife care for longer (and I'm not just talking ARC people) will have many more amazing memories.

At Gwen's funeral which was conducted by her much-loved family, Kerryn spoke about Gwen's earlier life. Gwen managed an education beyond that of most girls of her era. Initially she went to Business College to study Book-keeping and Typing and worked as the PA for the head of the Government's Prices Commission while working on a Tech course in Dressmaking, Designing and Millinery. She married Stan, once he made it home from WW2. Apparently Gwen had the wedding all organized, minister and church booked before he even came home and proposed! She then designed and made all the dresses involved in the wedding using furnishing material and dyed mosquito netting.

Gwen worked as a designer and then started a very successful catering business when she had small children. A serious car accident took seven years from her busy life. When she recovered she was engaged for many years foster-caring for children in need. Then she worked as the Subscription Manager for Choice magazine for about 10 years before retiring. On moving to a small farm on the Central Coast Gwen studied Vet Nursing and Zoo-keeping to look after her animals.

Gwen started the Wildlife ARC 27 years ago! Gwen was handed an injured possum when Erina Fair was being built. At that time there were no formal organisations that cared for injured or orphaned wildlife. So Gwen founded the ARC. Her good friend David Wood designed the logo. At that time Gwen's daughter Kerryn, was researching Flying-foxes for her PhD, and one day she turned up with a couple of orphaned baby flying-foxes. Gwen took them and fell in love with them. She became their species' advocate. A few friends and other people interested in wildlife joined the group and to this day The ARC cares for between 3000-5,000 native animals each year on the Central Coast and the ARC has between 100-200 members on our books, all in some way caring for the native creatures with which we share our lives and world.

Gwen advocated for child safety. From 1991 she promoted child safety at schools and helped to bring about the child crossings and safety time-zones that we now take for granted at our schools. She was instrumental in having railway pedestrian bridges and railway fencing erected throughout the Central Coast. She was invited to speak at an international conference in America on the basis of her work for children. But there was a dreadful reason for her activity in this area. Lisarow Railway Station bridge still bears the name of her beloved grandson Andrew who was killed there by a train on his way to school at the age of nine. Gwen kept his photos near her for the rest of her life. She loved Andrew so much but has always had love for all her grandchildren and was an incredibly family-oriented person. Christmas, Easter, someone's birthday or graduation were always celebrated with gusto and verve!

Gwen was a founding member of the Central Coast Greens in 2002 and ran for The Greens in the State election in 2003. This political activity was one result of her work in Gosford Council's committees. She was particularly active in the Coastal Open Spaces System (COSS) Committee, an award winning development plan for the Central Coast which has resulted in large tracts of precious environmentally sensitive land being saved for posterity. She was awarded an OAM for services to conservation in 2010.

Gwen has left an amazing legacy. Her passion for children and all the other precious species with which we share this World, knew no bounds. Personally I have been involved in a few protests and campaigns with Gwen. She had more energy than people a third her age!

We need to remember Gwen and her spirit – indomitable, argumentative, incorrigible, feisty. Always ready to fight for what she saw as justice and always ready to care for some little bereft creature that that needed attention. Gwen has passed the baton to those of us still living out our lives. For children, for all the other species that live here with us and for the future, let's not forget her legacy.

Gwen Parry Jones funeral was held on July 7th, 2015. Her funeral was a celebration of all the amazing achievements of her long and busy life. Gwen would have enjoyed all the lovely things people said about her, the accolades and attention! I wish she'd been there.

Vale, The ARC's Founder and Patron
Gwenllyn Daisy ParryJones, OAM

Jessie Grace

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

NORTHERN FOOD STORE SHORT BREAK

The Northern Food Store (Lesley Hale) will be closed from 13 July until 19 August.
I'm sorry for any inconvenience, but food can be obtained from Pattie Ryan (Central Store)

Thanks
Lesley Hale

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

<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.
