

WILDLIFE TALES



January 2016



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

ABN: 40 155 085 169

Post Office Box 2308 Gosford NSW 2250

Phone: **4325 0666** (24 HOURS)

EMAIL: arc@wildlife-arc.org.au

WEB ADDRESS: www.wildlife-arc.org.au

NEXT MEETING:

21st February at 10 am then 20th March at 10 am 2015

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

Wildlife ARC in the News

Joey and its mum dead, possums decapitated, goanna speared in spate of attacks on Central Coast

January 15, 2016 4:41pm

Geraldine Cardozo - Central Coast Gosford Express Advocate



This goanna was left for dead with an arrow through its body at Wyee Point, just days after a joey had also been shot. Picture: Twitter/Prime7 News Hunter

A SPATE of barbaric attacks on native animals have left a joey and its mother dead, two possums decapitated and a goanna fighting for its life after being speared with an arrow.

On Sunday a member of the public found the joey with an arrow impaled through its head, lying near swings in a children's playground at Wyee Point. The animal was alive, but died shortly before the RSPCA arrived at the scene.

Yesterday, an Eastern Grey kangaroo — believed to be the joey's mother — was discovered near the same spot with an arrow through its chest. The macropod was taken to a local vet, but had to be euthanased.



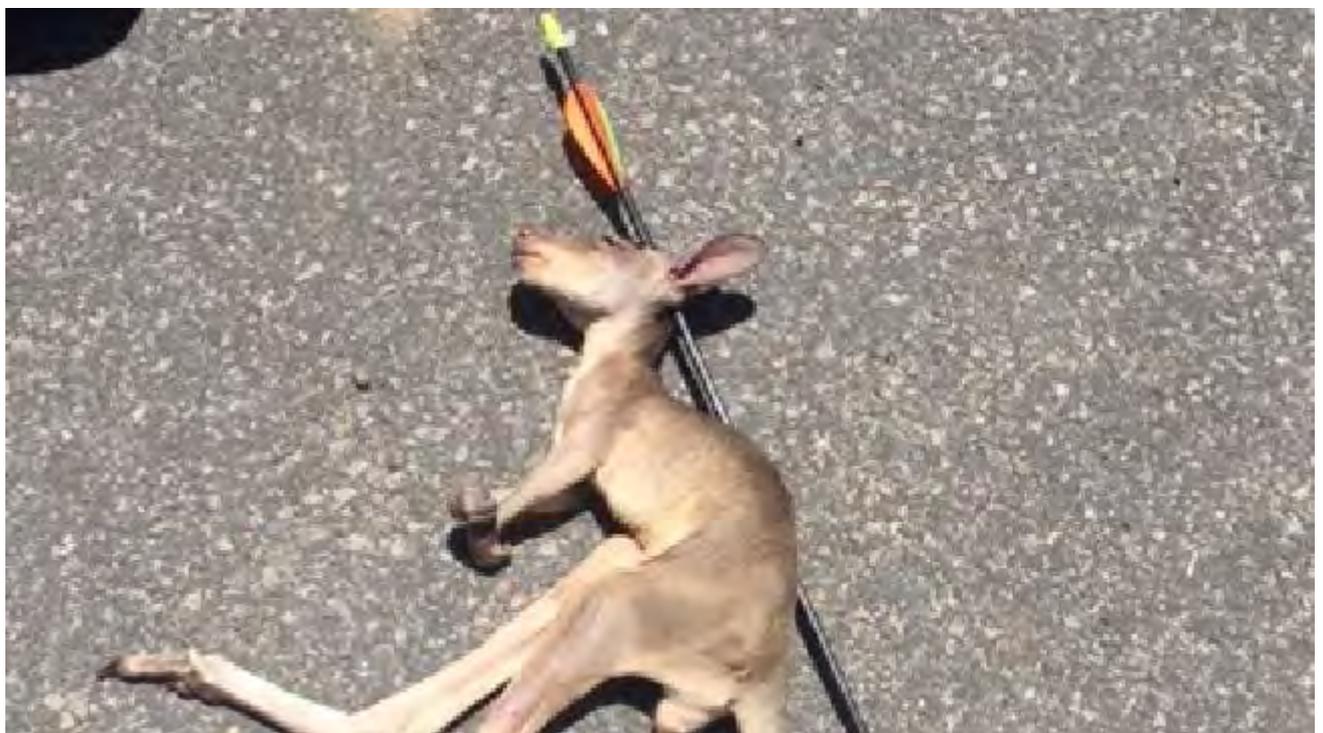
L: A joey which was shot with an arrow in a callous attack at Wyee Point. Picture: Facebook
R: A goanna, which was shot with an arrow, is rescued from a tree in Wyee Point. Picture: Facebook



Wildlife ARC volunteer Patty Ryan comforts an injured Eastern Grey kangaroo after it was found with an arrow lodged in its chest. Picture: Wildlife ARC
Later in the day, another passer-by spotted the 1m-long goanna with an arrow lodged in its body on a fire trail of Larapinta Drive.



A goanna fights for life after being speared with an arrow at Wyee Point. Picture: RSPCA
Officers from Lake Macquarie Local Area Command responded to the incident along with an RSPCA Inspector and found the injured goanna 10m up a gum tree.



A joey was shot with an arrow at Wyee. Picture: RSPCA
The impaled reptile was rescued from the tree by Rural Fire Service firefighters from Lake Munmorah and taken to a specialised vet for treatment. It is now being cared for by a Wildlife ARC volunteer.



This goanna was found alive with an arrow through its body at Wye Point. Picture: Twitter/Prime7 News Hunter

“It appears as if the kangaroo, like the goanna, had been shot a couple of days previously as it had maggots around the wound,” RSPCA spokeswoman Jessica Conway said.

Wildlife ARC chair Dr Kerry Parry-Jones said she was horrified to learn of the arrow attacks, which come weeks after a possum with two joeys in her pouch was found decapitated in Gwandalan.

“We had a similar incident in November, and this time the mum had joeys in the pouch which were rescued but later died,” she said.

“Unfortunately we do tend to see more animal cruelty cases during school holidays, and I would suggest the same person is behind these latest

targeted shootings.”

The RSPCA and Lake Macquarie police are investigating the arrow attacks.

Ms Conway said the callous attacks were now a widespread concern.

“This is a problem we have seen across the state. About 12 months ago there was a spate of these incidents across NSW. It is very sad and unfortunate to see this has come up again,” Ms Conway said.

She said the arrows used are readily available and difficult to trace.

“We suspect the joey was shot with a target arrow, whereas field arrows were used on the kangaroo and the goanna. These are usually used to target rats and rabbits and have a more pointy tip which can lead to problems with infection,” she said.

Police are urging anyone with information to contact Toronto Police Station on (02) 4950 3699 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



Fundraising & Promotions

Mannering Park Public School Fete was a fun day out and it was really awesome to have our Head Phonie Lesley at the School with us. Members of the public were very interested in what we do as a Society and they enjoyed seeing Fluffy the diamond python and Roger the blue tonged lizard again.

Lesley had a great day and spoke to lots of people about joining and she will have a few more volunteers up her sleeves really soon.

Thanks to Shannon, Wayne & Caroline for coming up and helping us out as well. Market Days are a great day for Wildlife ARC to showcase what we do and we are always looking for people to come and help us. We do a minimum of 4 big markets a year all over the coast – please let us know if you are interested in coming to help.



Plans for 2016: At this stage we will be having a break over the Christmas / January Period and we have applied for a stall at the Narara Ecoburbia Festival in Narara in April 2016. More details will be posted once they become finalised.



By Helen Davis

Phonies Report

WHY NOT BECOME A PHONIE?

As a Phonie you are part of a great Community Volunteer Organisation that has been operating in the Central Coast for over 25 years, dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of Australian native birds, reptiles and animals living in this area.

Our team operates three shifts per day, but due to illness, work and other commitments, we find we are short a few people who can devote 5 hours per daytime shift once a week or even fortnightly - are you able to help out?

The Phonie is the backbone of Wildlife-ARC. We are the people who have the understanding manner when dealing with the public. We are able to cope with sometimes the most frustrating things and yet still come back for more. Are you up to this?

Now Summer is here things are getting busier so would love to hear from you. Please contact me on 4359 1615 if you think you can help.

Remember, without the Phonie, the animal wouldn't come into care

Lesley Hale
Phone Coordinator

Possum Report



The possum team have been extremely busy of late, joey season has arrived a little later than in past years. We have had a number rodenticide poisonings all of which are all tolerating treatment.

Unfortunately we have encountered a devastating situation - an adult female ringtail possum was found decapitated at a park in Summerland Point. There were two live joeys in her pouch and despite all our efforts they passed away after a few days in care.

Upon investigation into the decapitation it was found that in Oct 2015 a brushtail possum was found decapitated at the same location. The injuries in both possums were described as clean cuts and both heads were nowhere to be found.

As carers we have great heartache however it is our successes that keep us going.

Keep up the great work everyone and thank you for never giving up.

Alison George
Head Carer - Possums

Well it was an interesting end to 2015. On 29/12/2015 I received a call from our wonderful phonies about a possum that had got itself stuck in a ringtail box. At first thought I assumed it was in the box and couldn't get out. You could imagine my surprise when I got to the property at Lisarow. If only I had my phone on me to take a photo. There was a ringtail box in the fork of a tree which the property owners had set up for the wildlife, ringtails in particular, with a big fluffy bum two back legs and a tail dangling out of the hole. Yes, the hole. The darling male 1.5kg brushtail possum had decided he could fit into the box. Well guess what Jack, no chance at all. Too much eating over Christmas I would say.

The property owner had kindly already set up a ladder for me to climb up. Once I got up there it took me about 45 mins of gently manoeuvring his bum into the tiny hole. I couldn't pull him out as I didn't know what he could hold onto inside the box.

As the owners had been away for a couple of weeks and had only discovered him the day after they arrived home it was decided that Jack in the Box would come home with me for assessment. Once home it was obvious he had injured his leg/hip so off to the vet we went and he was the perfect patient. X-rays revealed no breaks however there was bad bruising. Today, after being in a hospital cage since the accident Jack is now getting stronger on his leg. He will be put in a larger cage to assess his strength and hopefully will be returned to the property with his own custom designed box that he can fit into. Although I think he may be "milking" his injury as he loves brekky in bed daily and cold grapes on hot days. Lets hope this adventurous little boy stays out of trouble.

The new year didn't get better. After a phone call from a friend of mine on 03/01/2015 advising that after a few days of hearing thumping and chewing in his roof all night, with a 6 month old baby and a wife trying to sleep, he ventured up into his roof to lay baits for the rats in his roof. On the second night he discovered that there may be a possible possum in his roof as well as rats. I sent him photos of our possums but none matched his description of both looks and behaviour. The next day he phone me again and advised that he could now see the animal in his roof. I went straight over there and confirmed it was a brushtail. I advised him to take baits straight out and I set a trap that day. The brushtail was determined not to get caught however the little devil set the trap off several times during the night over the next 2 nights.

My next step was to get my friend to seal off the exit point so the possum would get hungry and go into the trap. Again, failed. Water drunk and some food eaten but no possum in trap. The next day however my friend phoned to advise that he realised that there were still some baits up there that had been overlooked and that were no longer there, obviously suggesting that the possum had eaten the baits. Now we were in a critical situation. He kept a constant ear and eye out for the evasive possum and phoned me as soon as he located the possum. I attended his house this time prepared with my "catch at all costs" kit. Luckily possum was in a perfect position to catch. Threw a tantrum in the meantime but got him into care. Again, another reckless male brushie.

It is with pleasure to say that after eating around 10 rat baits, this little 1.5kg brushie is doing well. He came in with white nose, ears and feet and bruising to his groin and looked in a bad way. He is now growling at me and ready to bite. Again happy ending

Simone Barwick

Rosella Rescue

I took this photo on the 13th November 2015, when I took them over to Jackie Sessions to look after. The hand is Jackie's. One baby bird did not make it. The other pictures of the remaining rosella were taken on the 30th November 2015 (17 days later).

Christina Murray



Possum Progress

The possum is my baby, whom I called Sam. The photo of him in the red pouch was taken on 15th September 2015. On the 29th September 2015 is when he has the blue berry in his mouth. The photo on my head was taken on the 12th January 2015, when I took him to Wambina at Matcham. His next step of being slow released.

Christina Murray



Macropod and Wombat Report

The macropod section has been chugging along as usual. We have had a few babies come in the last few months. Jessi and Leyla both have little boys and we have also welcomed Michelle Chandler and Alison George to the team with their first babies. Pattie's little mob of roos are all doing well and on track for release sometime early in the year. In other release news, my swamp wallaby boy Nim was released and is doing well - he still makes regular visits. We still see many of our other released babies around the property and excitingly, Mirabooka has a joey of her own. She was released over a year ago and has obviously got along well with the local boys. Her joey is a young boy we've named Rookie and he has recently started having his first hops outside the pouch. Mirabooka still visits regularly so we've been able to monitor his progress, which has been such a wonderful experience.

As far as wombats go, we've had the usual few mange cases which have all been treated on site. Jacky's baby boy Ravi is doing well, up to a whopping 1kg from his initial weight of just 130 grams. His eyes are open and he's even starting to get fur!

I had planned a macropod rescue workshop for November 8th but it has been postponed until early next year due to a lack of response. If you are interested in one on one training in the meantime, please let me know.

Kelly Hunt
Macropod Head Care



Ravi when he came into care



Ravi now



Mirabooka and Rookie

WITHOUT THE PHONIES...



... we 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 me 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.

VET ACCOUNTS

In order to streamline the Vet Accounts I would like to remind you of a few things you MUST do.

1. When you are asked by a phonie to pick up an animal from the Vets you MUST give the Vet the ARC number and your name or membership number.
2. When you are at the Vets and they have any animals for you to pick up then you MUST ring the ARC phone and register these animals with the details of the animal and address found if available and give the Vet the ARC number..
3. If you are given an animal by the member of the public you are then required to get an ARC number from the phonie and use it if necessary at the Vets,
4. If you are a carer taking an animal to the Vet you MUST give the Vet the ARC number and your ARC membership number or name.

Hoping that will make the payment of accounts and the register of animals a lot easier in the future

Thank You

Jan Brazel
Treasurer and Animal Records Officer

FOOD STORE

We now have two locations;
North store (located in Mannering Park) and
Central store (located at Somersby).

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.

***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, Sharron & 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

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.