

# WILDLIFE TALES



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May 2016

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

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**NEXT MEETING:**

19<sup>th</sup> June at 10 am then 17<sup>th</sup> July at 10 am 2016

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

## A Very Handy Rescue

I had settled in for the night and was thinking it had been a quiet day for rescues when my phone went off. It was Jan on the phone and she had a lady by the name of Heather wanting some advice about a kookaburra that was injured. I grabbed the number and called her back to find out the bird seemed to have been injured with a tree branch piercing its body. Being dark she couldn't tell the extent of damage that the bird had suffered.

I drove out to McMasters Beach hoping the little guy would make it until I got there. Heather met me in her driveway with the bird in a box wrapped in a towel. Once I unwrapped him I could see he didn't have a branch stuck in him but had twigs and other things stuck on him.

Both his wings were stuck down on his body by some sort of sap and sticky stuff from a bush. Quickly I assessed his damage and took him off to the emergency vets to see what we could do for him.

The vet was just as stumped as I was. Neither of us had come across this before but we were determined to make things better for this little guy. Ok... Metho, let's try that. Nope... didn't work. Dishwashing liquid... nope, no luck there. Let's Google it for some ideas, Hmmm... hand sanitizer, ok let's try that. Yes it was working! Finally we found something that was slowly working.

I took the kooky home and the next morning was woken by him singing his song for the whole world to hear. After a good breakfast he got another bath in the hand sanitizer and his wings were completely free.

He spent the night with us here once again and upon assessment the next day he was returned to a very happy Heather for release. Once he realised where he was he sang a song of happiness for us and flew off to join his family.

We all learned from this rescue that hand sanitizer now has another use and it's not just good for hands.

Von Naftel

# Bird News

## Bird Training

Level 1 training is for new ARC members or existing ARC members who haven't trained for birds. The bird section has now had four Level 1 training days this year and I am happy to run another if needed. Please contact me via the database if you are interested. Level 2 training is booked for Sunday June 5 at Wyoming Community Centre. This training follows on from Level 1 with an emphasis on identifying and treating injuries and illness, as well as raising orphaned birds. It will update experienced carers with the latest information on rehabilitating birds and it is expected that those who haven't attended a bird training in the past 2 years will join in on the day to ensure they comply with our licensing conditions. At this stage Level 2 training will not be offered again until 2017 so please mark it on your calendar.

Below: James observing Terry the tawny frogmouth.

Left: Urvashi observing Star the magpie.



## Pinioning and Clipping Wings

We have had a couple of birds come into care in recent months with the end of their wing missing. Given the cut is clean in both cases I am concerned that the injuries have come as a result of some person trying to prevent the birds from flying using a technique known as pinioning, rather than it being the result of an accident. Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1979, it is an offence to pinion a bird unless it is held for exhibition to the public and subject to the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986. If any carers take in a bird that has part of its wing missing, please make it known to me so I can advise both the RSPCA and OEH.

Feather clipping is another method used to prevent birds from flying and we have recently had a juvenile magpie come into care with its wing clipped by a member of public who wanted to keep it as a pet. Magpies are usually quite friendly as juveniles but this bird was clearly distressed by what had happened and quite aggressive when being handled. It is illegal to take native birds from the wild to keep as pets and in this particular case the wing has been badly damaged by someone who clearly had no idea how to feather clip. The magpie will now be in care until she goes through a moult and I am hoping her feathers grow correctly and no permanent damage has been done.

## Forest, the Powerful Owl

Forest came into care after being picked up on Forest Rd at Kulnura as a 750g fledgling. His X-rays came back clear of breaks but unfortunately he wasn't able to fly and I suspect he had a broken coracoid. After 6 weeks of rehabilitation, during which time he doubled his weight and reached adult size, the decision was made to send him to Featherdale Wildlife Park in the hopes that he might join a breeding program rather than see him put to sleep. Good luck, Forest!



Above: Forest – weighing in at 1.45kg

Left: Forest at 750g when he first came into care.



## Bird Report

We are still seeing some fledgling birds coming into care but the majority of birds are now injuries or illness rather than orphans.

Any Tawny Frogmouths presenting with neurological symptoms should be considered a possible Rat Lungworm case unless they have other injuries that indicate a collision. Please contact me if you need help identifying Rat Lungworm disease.

I would like to remind carers to keep their records up to date and make sure the species entered on the database is actually what is in care. The identification given over the phone is not necessarily accurate and it is up to the carer to correctly identify and change the record if necessary.

Many thanks to all those who give so much for our birds!

Jacky Hunt  
Head Carer Birds

# Others Section Report

Hi Everyone,

A reasonably busy month in the Others section.

Thanks to my helpers Michelle Hooley Harmer for the great echidna rescue, Sam Chatfield for trying to raise some rat babies.

All members on the Others list are encouraged to jump in and give things a go with full support from myself of course.

Please encourage all members of the public to send ID pics through for critters they find, I recently had three babies ID done at a vet they said to Member of Public definitely antechinus or bandicoot babies, well surprise they were definitely Mice!

Anyone interested in doing further training on the Others contact me.

I can always forward you any info that you may need in order to help, and always you will receive full support.

With thanks

Sharron jones

Head carer for others section

## I Now Believe in Miracles

Talk about the saying “seeing is believing”, I can honestly say that this is exactly what happened to me early this year. On 4 January I received a call from a friend of mine who was up in his roof setting up rat poisoning, like most members of the public do, after several sleepless night’s of listening to “rave parties” in his roof and chewing and scratching of timber, when he saw a little head pop over the rafters. He thought that it was a possum so contacted me. I went out there to investigate who his little visitor was. The first day I went out there was no sign of him. I reassured him that the chewing and scratching at the beams would be from rats and not the possums, if there was one.

The next day he again contacted me as he had located the possum in his roof. Again I visited his house and up in the roof I went. And what should greet me from the rafters on the edge of the roof, but the cheeky head of a sub-adult brushtail possum. Unfortunately he was not in a position where I could catch him so I left a trap in the roof filled with plenty of yummy treats. Over the next couple of days he had set the trap off on several occasions without being inside it. The decision was then made to block off where he was getting in, in the hope that he would have no alternative but to go into the cage for food.

The next day my friend phoned me all distressed. He had heard the trap go off again and went up into the roof to see what the result was. Unfortunately it was not a result he had hoped for. Whilst in the commotion of setting the trap, the baits were accidentally left in the roof, which were all eaten overnight, a total of 12 rat baits were devoured by this poor little brushie. It was time to take evasive action. Within an hour I was at the property up in the roof. Luckily for me, the brushie was in an easy position to catch. He growled and carried on and gave a good bite through thick leather gloves that I do not go anywhere without.

Once at home and after being assessed his symptoms included white nose and ears and bruising on his testicles. After a quick trip to the Vet, it was determined by blood test that our boy was in a bad way. He was 1.5kg. He was most definitely poisoned. With the amount of poison that it appears he had taken over night I was very sceptical of his outcome and was going to make that awful decision every carer hates, and that was to euthanise. However, after discussions with the ARC head carer, it was decided to at least try. He wasn't in any pain as yet.

So began the sleepless nights and constant monitoring as well as daily doses of vitamin K. He appeared to be getting colour back in his little nose and ears. On 13/01/16 he gave me another scare. There was blood pouring out from above his ear and down his neck. Upon close examination, thank god, it was just a tick. With the tick removed, what else could he go through? By 28/01/2016, he was growling and really wanting to rip my hand off. I'm pretty sure at this stage he was over the worst of it. On 07/02/2016 he was taken to the vet who gave him the all clear and could return home.

This beautiful little boy was taken home and released on 07/02/2016. He still is around the property somewhere. But is no longer in the roof. My friend felt so bad that he had poisoned our wildlife. Since then he so generously donated 3 brushtail boxes and 4 ringtail boxes for ARC use and has taken all the baits out of his roof and has replaced them with alternative methods. This was a very promising story and one that I am very glad I was overruled by our Head Carer as I honestly thought he had no chance.

Simone

# Flying Foxes

The Flying-fox Section is seasonal. Orphan baby flying-foxes come in their ones and twos during spring and sometimes in large numbers in the heat of summer. Then the babies go out to their foster mums and gradually grow into adolescent bats over summer. By autumn they are flying strongly and are back at Wambina in the process of going through the release program.

We have had 3 releases this autumn. In the first one 44 flying-foxes were released, in the second 23 and in the last one, last Sunday on May Day we released 11 furry critters. Ideally they all fly off the night they are released and find their own food and colony and we don't see them for a couple of years until they come back for a visit with their girlfriend or baby. We wish. The reality is a bit different. Yes most do go... but they come back if the going gets tough. If it rains for example, going home to mum for a bit of food and shelter seems a good idea. It rained last night so when I looked in the release cage today, over 30 pairs of beady eyes looked back at me.

In many ways this is a good thing. Being wild flying-foxes must have its challenges to pampered hand-reared animals and if a gradual process of acclimatisation helps them over the shock then this is probably to their advantage. The only problem is feeding them. How much food needs to be found and cut up each day when we have a fluctuating population of flying-foxes using the cage? It is a bit like running a restaurant while knowing that providing too much food is a waste and can encourage food fights while not having enough can cause a riot.

Currently we cut up about 30k of fruit per day. It is a huge job. Someone has to collect the fruit from Coles each day, it has to be cut and put in buckets, and it has to be put in the cages. If it is group effort, it takes no time at all but at the moment, when we have the greatest need for support, we have the fewest people helping us. So please we do need your help, any time, any day. Come and help us feed the hungry hoards.

Bye Kerryn



# Ecoburbia Festival

ARC recently had a great day at the Ecoburbia Festival at Narara Valley High School. Lovely weather, lovely people, lovely critters.....

We had two bats, one big and one little, we had a frog and a few lizards and we had two big pythons. Cleo behaved perfectly all day - what a sweetie. Fluffy was a particular hit as the hot weather had him actively looking for an escape route. And he is such a big snake!

We talked ourselves hoarse and handed out lots of magnets and stickers. We did lots of good education work for both our animals and the ARC. Many people seemed keen to join us. Quite a few people took membership forms away with them.

Ecoburbia was a very interesting festival - lots of people sharing ideas on how to improve the way we do things in a way that is good for the earth as well as for us - definitely worth going to. We also met possible contacts for release sites for various species linked to the Narara Ecovillage which is being developed on the old agricultural station land adjoining the southern end of Strickland State Forest.

Our stall was in a great position, we got lots of positive feedback from interested people and we had lots of ARC people come and help us. Thanks one and all.

Overall it was a very positive and fun day for the ARC.



# Phonies Report

At a recent Management Meeting it was decided that all sections need to appoint a deputy, and I am pleased to announce that Jan Brazel is now the Deputy Telephone Coordinator. Thank you Jan.

I would also advise that there have been changes to the Telephone Roster and we have lost a very good Phonie, Linda Wilson, who has moved out of our area now and chosen to live on the shores of Lake Macquarie. Linda has worked with ARC for the last 8 years as a Phonie and as a Supervisor for Birds. Her input has always been valued and she will be a hard act to follow. Thank you Linda and we all wish you well.

We also have new Phonies to add to our list, they are Alice Renwick, who on her first time on the roster was subjected to a Hoax Call, then agreed to do a double shift. A big thank you to Alice for stepping in when it was needed.

Another new Phonie is Rebecca McGovern who is handling the Sunday night roster, plus others have put their names down to be called on in emergencies. A very big thank you to all.

Recently the phonies have had to contend with hoax calls. Calls made by irresponsible people determined to create anxiety and worry amongst the phonies. If it should happen to you, please contact your head carer, myself or my deputy Jan Brazel and we will endeavour to find out who is creating these nuisance calls. Do not under any circumstance, try and locate the animal on your own. There are so many people suffering drug episodes long after the taking of drugs, that this may be the result of one of these episodes.

Of course the Phone Roster has a life of its own, so if you think you want to be part of the front line and can give us 5 hours of your precious time, please don't hesitate to call me on 4359 1615. You are needed.

Lesley Hale

Telephone Coordinator

## 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 me at [halelesley2012@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.wildlife-arc.org.au)

**MEMBERSHIP FEE (\$25)** CAN BE PAID BY DIRECT DEPOSIT, CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER

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

**NEW MEMBERS** PAY MEMBERSHIP AND A \$5.00 JOINING FEE

**RENEWALS** ARE DUE BY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE EACH YEAR.

**NOTE** IF YOU RENEW BY DIRECT DEPOSIT THEN YOU ARE NOT FINANCIAL UNTIL A COMPLETED FORM IS RECEIVED

IF YOU FAIL TO RENEW YOU WILL BE TAKEN OFF ALL LISTS AND ANY ANIMALS YOU HAVE IN CARE WILL NEED TO BE SURRENDERED TO THE APPROPRIATE HEAD CARER.

RENEWAL FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE DATABASE.

# FOOD STORES

The ARC Food Stores are there to help defray the cost of food/supplies for animals/birds with ARC numbers and held by ARC carers. It is not meant for private and personal use. This food can be ordered through the various Food Stores and collected at the following General Meeting, or collected from the Food Store direct.

Item	Item
Passwell Complete Lorikeet Dry Mix	Wombaroo High Protein Supplement
Passwell Hand Rearing Mix	Insecticide Dusting Powder
Wombaroo Granivore	Moxidectin
Wombaroo Insetivore	Spark
Wombaroo Lorikeet & Honeyeater (wet)	Wormout Gel
Vetafarm Insecta Pro	Animal House Cleaning Solution
Biolac M100	Basik 1 ml Syringe
Divetelac	Basik 5ml Syringe
Wombaroo .4 Kangaroo Milk	Basik 10 ml Syringe
Wombaroo .6 Kangaroo Milk	Basik 20 ml Syringe
Wombaroo .7 Kangaroo Milk	Butterfly Tube
	Cannula Tip
Wombaroo Possum Milk <0.8	Plastic 3 ml Pipette
Wombaroo Possum Milk >0.8	Plastic Forceps
Wombaroo 0.6 Wombat Milk	
Impact Colostrum	Silicone Feeding Nipple
	Syringe Cap
Sandoz Calcium Syrup	Teat - Flying Fox
Avi-Cal Liquid Calcium	Teat - Macropod
Calcivet	Teat - Possum
Polyaid Plus	
Solvite D	

Food Stores are located at	Killarney Vale	Phone 0411 773 220 (Gillian)
	Wyong Creek	Phone 0409 621 452 (Jacky)
	Mannering Park	Phone 43591615 (Lesley)

If you do not have a computer please phone the store number 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.

## 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

## 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.