

# WILDLIFE TALES



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July 2016

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

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**NEXT MEETING:**

21<sup>st</sup> August at 10 am then 18<sup>th</sup> September 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*

## Introductory Training

*An Introductory training day will be held at Wyoming Community Centre on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July. This is a compulsory training for all new members to Wildlife ARC and anyone who has not attended any other training days should attend. Phonies and other members are also welcome to join in on the day.*

*The morning session will cover administration, using the database, the Code of Practice and conditions of licensing. The afternoon session will introduce each section within ARC and then focus on rescuing wildlife. This training will qualify attendees to do further training for a section and allow them to carry out simple rescues themselves or commence rescue and care under guidance of the sections they are interested in.*

*Please watch for an email that will be sent out in the next few days for further information and how to register.*

Many thanks

Jacky Hunt

## Annual General Meeting

*The Wildlife ARC AGM is scheduled for 18 September 2016 to commence at 10am in the Wyoming Community Centre, 147 Maidens Brush Road Wyoming*

*Details: If a member wishes to apply for any position within ARC, or wishes to submit a proxy vote at the AGM, the correct forms are available from the database in the Constitution (Important Documents section).*

*Please send any matters or correspondence for the Agenda to my Gillian (secretary)'s address for inclusion.*

*All welcome! Hope to see you there!*

# Macropod & Wombat Report

All good news from the Macropod team. We have had a couple of joey macs arrive into care, who are settling in wonderfully with their new mums. We've also had a number of pouch-checks, but it's been relatively quiet with macropod rescues.

Excitingly, we also have three new grandbabies in pouches! My Mirabooka, who has only recently weaned her first joey, has a second joey in pouch. Jill, who I released at the beginning of this year, also has a little one on board. Both their joeys are about the same size and I can't wait till they start popping their heads out of the pouch in a couple of months! And most recently, Ali's swamp wallaby Pyper (aka Hyper Pyper) has also shown up with a surprise joey in pouch. Her bub is still only tiny, but she certainly didn't waste time getting a boyfriend. So it's very exciting for all of us, and also wonderful to see that we're doing such a good job with our joeys. If they're going out and having joeys of their own, we must be doing something right!

In wombat news, we've had a sad number of mange cases come in recently, many of which had to be euthanased. However we have ongoing treatment programs on several properties - it's important that the member of public is able to work with us so we can treat mange on site, as adult wombats can not be brought into care. A number of apprentice rescuers have been attending wombat rescues with Jacky, so we're looking forward to having more help at the northern end of the Coast.

Kelly Hunt  
Macropod Head Carer



Jay Bee, Pattie's new Eastern Grey Kangaroo girl

# Pirate Pete

The morning was chilly and I was half way into my first coffee of the morning when the phone call came in. There s a tawny frogmouth at the children's centre at Terrigal that was sitting on one of the toys that the kids use and it had a sore eye.

I arrived, signed in and the staff directed me to where he was. I reached over to pick him up with the staff standing behind me as they were scared that if they touched him he would bite. I examined his left eye and it was normal but his right eye was the one with the problem. There didn't appear to have a retina. At first I thought that it must have separated from the rest of the eye but upon further examination it became obvious that he just didn't have one.

I took the bird home and rang the head Carer for some advice. I was stunned at the fact this bird had no retina and that he had managed to survive as long as he had. He wasn't a young bird but was a little underweight and smaller than normal.

His situation had me thinking about him non stop for days. I made an appointment with my vet and when I showed him the bird he was stunned. He left the room and returned with other vets in tow to look at the birds eye. None of them had ever seen anything like that before and after they had done some tests, all of which I had already done, they came to the conclusion that it was a congenital disorder and there was actually no retina whatever. I have also shown his photo to a few other vets and they are all amazed. He is a freak of nature.

After speaking with the vet and a lot of soul searching the decision as to his fate was made.

I am still amazed that a bird who hunts for his food could have survived with his condition.

Yvonne.



# Others Section Report

Quite a busy time in the Others section with a few bandicoots coming in to care, sadly two of these passed away due to being cat attack victims. If phonies can please encourage all members of public who suspect their cat has attacked a bandicoot to get it to the vets ASAP for an injection of baytril it will of course stand a much better chance of fighting off any possible infection.

Sad of course that people still insist of allowing their cats out at night but all we can do is educate, educate, maybe they are not aware of some of these delightful nocturnal critters that share their backyards.

There is a wonderful write up on Department of Environment and Hertiage too on living with bandicoots, a lot of calls I have referred to me are about this. NO, ARC does not relocate bandicoots! I mean where would they all go anyway?!?!

Big part of this section is ID, so always feel free any ARC'ians to drop a picture my way for me to hopefully be able to help ID what we are dealing with a coin too alongside the critter will give us more info on what we are dealing with a bandicoot baby is nothing like the size of a mouse baby of course but of course bandicoot have totally different foot pads too.

A big thank you to the wonderful team I have at the moment, my list has been updated and is still be worked on for ease of use for the phonies. Big thank you to Kelly for the changes she has been able to make to the database there it has made a big difference she has been doing a lot of work on the database recently and it is becoming more a more a useful tool for us all.

If you are interested in becoming an "others" carer and missed the combined training day, you can drop me a line about one on one training, or discuss this with one our my deputies as listed on phone list they are as follows: Kelly Hunt, Sara Horne, and Natalie Finch. If the girls can't help you or are not sure they can talk to me or direct you to me.

A big thank you to Simone Barwick who is currently doing a wonderful job with a little bandicoot one that is thriving and eating her out of house and home!

Also another thank you goes out to Michelle and Paul who did a night rescue of an echidna the other night who had a busted nose due to being hit by a car they took him straight down to AEC and sadly he/she was euthanased.

All the help and keen carers I have on board at the moment are just a blessing.

Thank you all  
Keep up the good work  
Sharron jones  
Head carer others section.

# Bird News

## ***Training***

An advanced training day was held on June 5 which covered the following areas:

1. Update on Wildlife Rehabilitation Code of Practice
2. How birds breathe and the implications for carers
3. Advanced rescue techniques
4. Shock and stress
5. Fluid therapy and pain management
6. Checking for neurological damage
7. Assessing your bird
8. Rat Lungworm disease
9. Throatworm and gapeworm
10. Update on Beak and Feather Disease

The day was well attended and the food was fabulous. A special thank you to Cathie Stubbs for her presentation on how birds breathe and demonstration of techniques for using a foot snare to catch birds such as ducks and pelicans. I would also like to thank Michelle and Paul Brereton and everyone else that brought along food to share for lunch – it truly was a great spread. Congratulations to Paul for selecting the lucky number which won him a plastic carry basket filled with useful goodies! Thank you also to Jan Brazel for handling the registrations for the day as well as the lucky number sheet and food store sales. Finally a big thank you to all the birdies that attended the day and for making it such a success. The next advanced training will be held in August or September and will be called “From Egg to Fledgling – Raising Orphaned Birds to be Released”. As the title suggests the focus for the day will be on orphaned birds, just in time for the busy season. Watch this space for confirmation of the date and don't forget to check your emails and the database, too.

## ***Beak and Feather Disease***

Did you know that Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (Pbfd) is listed as a key threatening process to endangered psittacine species and populations? So what exactly does this mean?

Pbfd is caused by a tiny virus called a circovirus, so the disease is also referred to as Psittacine Circoviral Disease (PCD). This virus infects and kills the cells of feathers and the beak, as well as cells of the immune system, leaving birds vulnerable to bacteria and other infections. PCD is widespread amongst wild populations of parrots and lorikeets and a similar virus has been found in pigeons and doves and some other bird species, too. Birds that are at risk of being wiped out by PCD are the Orange-bellied Parrot, the Gang-Gang Cockatoo population in Hornsby/Kuringai and also the Coxen's Fig Parrot and Swift Parrot. The virus is one of the most resistant known to man and can remain viable in the environment for many years.

In 2015 there were a number of cases documenting the death of young predatory birds that were fed PCD infected birds by their parents. Sea-eagle cam, that watches the Sea-eagles nesting at Homebush Bay, witnessed an infected cockatoo being fed to one of the three chicks being raised. Subsequently this chick couldn't fly when it fledged and was taken to Taronga Wildlife Hospital where the presence of PCD was confirmed. It was euthanased due to the rapid changes the disease caused in both the beak and feathers.

The body of a Powerful Owl fledgling found at the base of the nest tree has also been identified as having PCD. It is not known how much impact this disease may have on our top predatory birds but it is a serious concern, particularly for species that may be listed as vulnerable or endangered.

I would like to remind all members that any birds coming into ARC that are suspected of having PBFD should be euthanased immediately. It is irresponsible to release runner lorikeets that regrow their feathers as it has been shown they still carry the disease and periodically shed it, putting other birds at risk of contracting it. It also goes against the Code of Practice and licensing conditions under which we operate.

Runner lorikeets typically present with primary feathers missing on both wings as well as the long tail feathers missing. They are called a 'runner' as they cannot fly and have to run or climb to find food to survive. A lorikeet that is not missing all feathers on both wings and the tail should be quarantined and kept until it can be established it is not infected. Make sure you check any feathers that drop out whilst in care. Blood in the quill or deformities to the feather shaft are indications of PCD. Cockatoos and larger parrots are usually easier to diagnose due to feather loss on the body and beak deformities as well as the loss of powder down which helps them to stay clean. Cages that have housed infected birds should be thoroughly cleaned using bleach or a disinfectant such as F10 and left in the sun. They should not be used for parrots or lorikeets for a minimum of three months but preferably at least one year.



A scaly-breasted lorikeet with PCD showing missing primary and tail feathers.

Feather loss and overgrown beak are typical of PBFD in cockatoos



Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need help identifying PCD in a bird

Jacky Hunt  
Head Carer

## 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 [halesley2012@gmail.com](mailto:halesley2012@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	Springfield	Phone 0432 183 240 (Von)
	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.