

# WILDLIFE TALES



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November 2016

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

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**NEXT MEETINGS:**

20<sup>th</sup> November, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016 then 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017

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

# Macropod Section

There's been good and bad times in the Macropod Section the past couple of months. We've been seeing a lot of animals hit by cars, and unfortunately a number of them have been females with joeys on board. Even worse, the majority of these joeys have been unfurred and too small to save - though I would like to thank the dedicated carers (Ann, Pattie and Janine especially) who tried so hard with the ones that were almost there. Fortunately, among all that heartbreak, we have had some success stories. A big well done to Julie, who took on a little 200gram swamp wallaby girl (now named Karma) and has done a fantastic job with getting her this far - she now has her eyes open, and it won't be long before she's furring up.

Being that it's baby season, we're also seeing some of our released girls with babies on board as well. My two redneck girls, Jill and Mirabooka, now have furring-up babies and we're expecting to see them hopping around the paddocks any day now. Ali's swamp wallaby, Piper, also has a growing pinkie on board - though I can't imagine it's slowed her down any, she was always full of energy!

We have more releases planned for the near future, with Pattie's little mob of roos now reaching the age they can come out for release, so hopefully that'll be more good news for the next newsletter.

In wombat news, a little unfurred boy has come in and Jacky has fallen in love (to no one's surprise). After a scary first week, he is now putting on weight and is hopefully on his way to growing up big and strong. The two older boys are still going well, doing the things wombats do (digging!) and Ravi is almost 15kg - getting to be a big boy!

One last thing - I've set a date for Macropod and Wombat Training. It is to be held on the 10th of December at my place. For further details, check the calendar event on the database. Numbers are limited so please remember to RSVP if you want to come. You must have attended Introductory Training to attend Macropod Training.

Kelly Hunt  
Head Carer

Baby Boromir the wombat



Karma the swamp wallaby



## Romantic Reptiles

- Over the last three weeks at work at the Sydney Rainforest Nursery in Ourimbah we've been amazed to see the mating processes of several Diamond Pythons. At first there were two - one big female and one male (just guessing). Then another fellow joined them. A reptilian menage a trois. Another guy tried to join the group but was promptly told to get lost! These snakes have been smooching for three weeks now, spending many hours of warm daytime hours coiled up together. We have to be careful not to trip over them as they seem fairly oblivious to anything but their own serious business.

We've taken many photos; they haven't noticed. Here are a couple of them:



Jessie Grace

## USEFUL WEBSITES TO HELP IDENTIFY BIRDS

<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.

# Possum and Glider Section

## Exudative Dermatitis (Stress dermatitis)

This is a very common clinical condition seen in common brushtail possums.

The condition may just be mild loss of hair with dry flaky skin on small areas of the body such as tail base, limbs and/or face.

In the more severe form the skin can become thickened and ulcerated. It is not uncommon to find that the ulceration is so severe that the skin on the face, especially eyelids and lips can be literally eaten away. Large areas of full skin thickness can be eaten away on limbs, rump and trunk.

Many possums are found in a very sorry state, completely debilitated and so weak they are easily picked up by MOP. In some cases there is already systemic sepsis and blood poisoning present.

In most cases however they may look severe they are actually quite treatable.

Stress dermatitis is most commonly caused by Staphylococcus Aureus, a bacteria that is cultured on marsupial (and mammal) skin. Staph Intermedius, E coli and Strep bacteria have also been thought to be a cause in some instances.

Stress is thought to be a contributing factor. In times of stress the body concentrates on pumping body to the vital organs namely the heart and lungs. As a result of this the bodies systems shut down this includes the possum's immune system. With the immune system suppressed, simple scratches that should heal become severely infected. Secondary skin infection develops in skin follicles that have shed due to stress. Remember that these bacteria are normal inhabitants of the skin and are always there on the skin, just waiting for the normal immune system that has kept them in their place, to falter.

Decreasing food sources and competition for food will further put a nutritional pressure on the immune system.

Treatment is preferably done onsite with the help of MOP. The antibiotic Cefaclor ( HC will advise of dosage) is given for a ten day course as well as administering Colloidal Silver to the affected area. On occasion a few courses of antibiotics are required.

Colloidal silver works by providing a protective seal to the wound site. It not only coats pathogenic bacteria (staph), suffocating these bacteria of oxygen, Colloidal Silver also promotes new cell growth.

There are six cases of stress dermatitis being treated at this time, five of those cases onsite and our latest case is in care.

As this condition can look horrendous it is sometimes too easy for the inexperienced rescuer carer too jump to the conclusion that euthanasia is warranted. This is why Head Carer should always be consulted prior too decisions being made.

Below is one of the cases we are treating onsite she is a young female adult Brushtail possum, she is last year's joey of the resident possum couple. One special thing about this girl is she has a joey in pouch.

The pictures indicate before starting treatment and at seven days into treatment. Treatment can take a few months thus I will add some progress reports in future newsletters.

Alison George

Possum and Glider HC



# Diary of a Carer

5 am – My alarm Phoebe, a 46 kg Rhodesian Ridgeback goes off by climbing onto the bed for cuddles. Her 25 kg Bull Arab sister Bella is desperately trying to get under the blankets!

The three cats blissfully asleep on various parts of the bed, now peeved wanting some blankets.

5.30 am – Beau, our little foster possum son, let out of enclosure can run amuck around his own room. His ninja skills in bouncing off lounge, landing on mummy's face, zooming down to the end and back to start again are coming along nicely! I can hardly see the furry missile as he zooms across from lounge to chair, limb to limb.

6am – Get up off lounge to go feed the 2 dogs, 3 cats, 3 horses, 1 goat, then back to a more settled baby possum. A plethora of wild ducks, scrub turkeys and 2 Muscovy Ducks who Think Bells Echo has the best breakfast bar around.

6.30 – Realise you are going to be late for work again and race into the shower before husband gets there.

6.59 am Race out the door... step in dog poo!! Race inside and change shoes... come out to find husband found the dog poo too!! ☺ He changes shoes!

7am – Daddy packs the possum, possum food and pouches into the car, the dogs sulk and we race off in different directions for work.

8 – 5 work, work, work dramas ect.

5 pm – head off to meet a member of public that has found an orphan duckling.

6 pm – Get home to help feed all animals... especially the cats who haven't been fed, in their opinion, for days!

6.30 – Another ARC member drops by so I can jab him with his next Rabies vaccine

6.45 – Feed baby possum... spill milk on brand new lounge. Clean up milk... keep feeding... spill more milk.

6.50 – Feed cats... again! Feed duckling... settle under a heat lamp for the night.

7 pm – Give possum quick bath as he has a tummy upset, change clothes... again... check no possum poo this time and see that you just got wee'd on. Insert sigh here.... Change top again and race out to meet family for dinner.

9 pm – At dinner, receive phone call to help co-ordinate a possum rescue. Think about dessert but feel too guilty.

9.45 - Get phone call to rescue 4 Plover chicks washed down a drain. Drive around in the rain until we find the street in the dark. Walk around then find the drain, get hubby to climb down drain to the poor wee little things that look like they are dead... but heart warmingly they are NOT!! ☺ Put all 4 chicks down your top too to warm them up. Realise you are standing in the pouring rain in your good clothes and hubby has drain muck all over him.

10.30 - Dogs are so excited that we have finally returned after what seems like weeks away... cats just want to be fed... again! Put plovers in basket under heat lamp near the duckling.

11 pm – Make up special possum milk... feed the baby and feed treats to visiting possums previously released. Think about buying shares in a tissue factory. Take dogs out for a pee

11.30 Fall into bed with various animals around on the bed.

2 am – Get up and feed baby possum.

5 am – Get woken by the dogs for cuddles.

5.10 Stumble to the fridge to get a can of Rockstar ( energy drink) and start it all again!!!

By Shell Brereton

This Year Wildlife ARC has been kept busy with animals coming into care. Sadly we see many when they are at their worst so do not get to nurse them all back to full health. This is what happened so far for 2016/17 (up to 6 Nov)

Fates	Birds										Frogs		Mammals							Reptiles			Non ARC	Total
	Kooka	Magpie	Tawny	Parrot	Raptor	Seawater	Other	Frog	Fox	Microbat	Possum	Mac	Wombat	Monotreme	Rodent	Other	Lizard	Turtle	Snake					
Animal not located	2	2	1	1	0	13	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	17	0	0	43			
Dead on arrival	1	2	0	6	0	8	4	0	2	1	28	22	2	0	0	3	0	4	0	2	85			
Died	2	9	4	22	2	24	53	1	1	2	68	8	0	0	2	2	6	3	1	0	208			
Escaped from care	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7			
Euthanased	8	8	5	12	1	13	15	0	0	0	13	8	2	1	0	0	15	3	1	1	108			
In care	4	42	12	11	1	44	62	2	13	7	68	9	1	0	0	0	12	16	6	0	308			
Left alone	0	2	2	5	1	8	7	0	2	0	2	3	0	2	0	2	4	10	0	1	51			
Number unused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	11			
Phone advice only/Inquiry	6	9	2	18	0	35	31	1	1	0	15	1	0	9	2	4	16	64	0	28	242			
Released	18	14	11	37	2	55	51	0	4	0	18	0	0	0	0	2	2	15	3	0	232			
Relocated	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	5	24	0	0	38			
Resolved by other organisation	0	1	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	18			
Resolved by vet	1	4	2	11	0	8	12	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	44			
Returned to owner/Rehomed	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5			
Reunited with parents	0	4	1	0	0	7	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18			
Transferred - Other wildlife care organisation	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3			
Treated in situ	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10			
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1429</b>			

# Wishing for Wings

I caress your soft strong wings -  
they stretch surprisingly so well;  
and why the God of Everything  
gave you these, I cannot tell.  
But they'll transport you when you fly-  
you'll have no need for car or plane,  
and when required they'll keep you dry,  
whenever it begins to rain.

Your wings do most things my hands can  
and so much more with so much ease.  
When it's hot they'll be a wide, dark fan –  
you'll make your own cool breeze.  
When winter comes and with it storms,  
they'll be your shelter from the cold.  
They will keep you summer warm,  
when wrapped up in their folds.

Your wings will catch each child you bear  
and hold them safe from any harm  
that might befall them way up there,  
as sure as any mother's arms.  
They'll be your fight or fly away.  
They'll fly you to the food you seek.  
They'll be your bed from branch, by every day.  
They are what makes you quite unique.

I'd like to grow a Wishing Tree  
That flowered forever, just for you.  
A forest but no "forestry"  
With trees that till forever grew.  
And if I could have anything,  
I'd wish for one wish to come true:  
I'd climb a tree and wish for wings  
and Flying fox, so small and gray,  
I'd wish we both could fly away  
And I would fly away with you.

By Jessi Grace.  
for ZEA, a Grey-headed Flying-fox  
released in February 2005.

# Bird Report

September, October and November are the busy months for the bird section with lots of young birds coming in to care! Young birds do much better when raised by their parents and every attempt should be made to reunite them instead of hand raising them. We are short on bird carers at the moment and I would like to remind everyone that feral birds should not be rehabilitated. This includes spotted turtle doves and mallard ducklings! Birds presenting with beak and feather disease should be euthanised to prevent them suffering a slow and painful death and to slow the spread of this insidious disease! Noisy miners, although native, are very aggressive and drive small birds away. They also may need to be put to sleep if a suitable carer cannot be found. When carers are short on the ground we must prioritise and focus on birds that have the best chance of a successful release. Thank you to all the wonderful people who go out of their way to give our feathered friends a second chance. It's not an easy job but is very rewarding and always interesting!

## Training

6th November - Introductory training  
Venue: Wyoming Community Centre  
Audience: New members

13th November - Birds for Beginners  
Venue: Wyong Creek  
Audience: New members or existing members who haven't done any bird training.

26th November - Reptiles, frogs and Snakes  
Venue: Wyoming Community Centre  
Audience: All interested members

27th November - Practical snake handling  
Venue: Wambina  
Audience: Must have attended previous day.

## Food Stores

Baza's Pet Shack located at 8/10 Grieve Close, West Gosford has agreed to give ARC members a 10% discount on presentation of their membership card. Their pet meats are fresh and preservative free and the lean beef is great for feeding magpies, currawongs, Tawny frogmouths and other insect and meat eating birds. They are also supplying gamebird starter which I use to feed plovers, rails and other ground dwelling birds, and duck starter which is fantastic for our native ducklings. These 2 products will be available from the food store in the coming week. Contact Jacky Hunt if you require some.

# Charlie the Kookaburra

Last Christmas I received a Juvie kookaburra into care that had been kept in a small enclosure after losing all her tail feathers after a cat attack, so was waiting around to moult and regrow them. This would take three months at best and I didn't own an aviary. Poor Charlie wasn't happy, had stopped eating and lost the will to live.

Luckily my home is bird friendly and I have no domestic pets so Charlie could free range around the house. The thought of feeding Charlie was daunting to me but we had a breakthrough.

First evening she arrived she sat on my patio watching the lizards sunning themselves in the late afternoon sun, she went into kingfisher mode and dived down catching and eating a tasty skink. Well it was like a new bird! Preening and wing flapping she followed me around the house now and would sit on my computer watching me work.

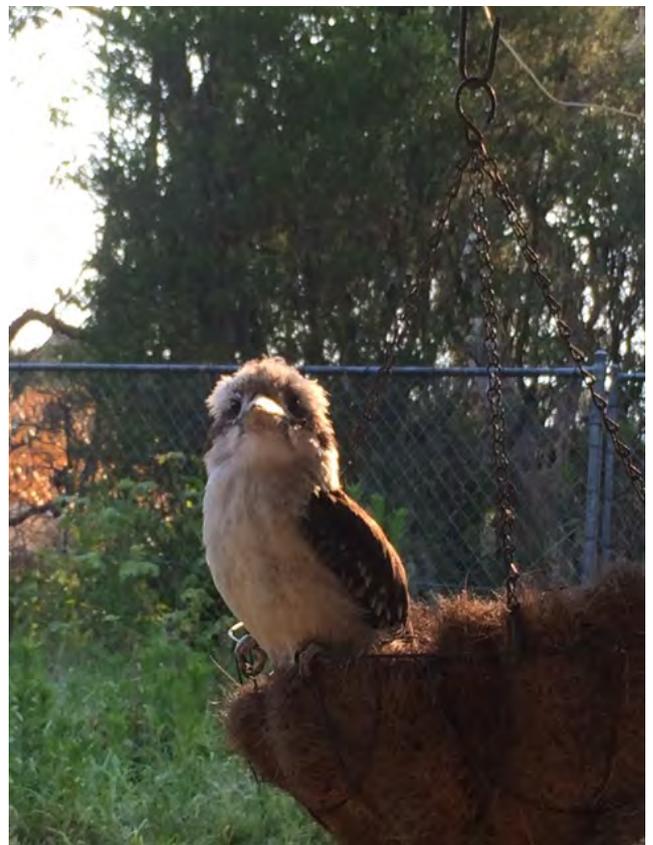
She caught a few bush rats, another lizard or three and started to put on weight.

Her feathers regrew and she could fly 6 feet with ease but still not stable enough to hunt by herself.

Around this time the local kookaburras pushed a juvenile male out of the flock and this male swooped on Charlie but she fought back and they seemed to bond.

So daily I would offer Charlie food on the deck and feed the new boy too. Then one day I saw the new boy bringing Charlie a food offering of a lizard, next day a mouse and they would sit together chortling.

One day she flew away with the new boy but they still returned for treats so I knew she was doing well. The best news was in August this year Charlie came back with chicks of her own.



By Deirdre Henshaw

# Fundraising Report

The past few months have been very busy for fundraising education and promotions for ARC. The valuable time of our volunteers has been well spent at various events in the past few months.

August we attended the Japanese Gardens in East Gosford for an indigenous day where many attended and fun was had.

In September we represented ARC at the Country Womens Association event for their anniversary Awareness week at the Brisbane Waters Historical Society Henry Kendall Cottage in West Gosford to the appreciation of the attendees. Shout out to Andrew Crouch and Samantha Chatfield who came to support ARC on the day with education animals thankyou .

October 9th we had a stall at Woytopia where the eco friendly community got together to share ideas great music and food. Thank you to all who helped that day, you know who you all are!

October 29th Arc was at the Mangrove Mountain Country Fair which was a great success we had interest from over 65 new potential members who wanted to attend our introductory training day November 6th.



## 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.

## Fantastic Beasts

Wildlife ARC are proud to present a wonderful family evening!

J.K. Rowling's Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

(<http://www.fantasticbeasts.com/>)

on Sunday 27th November 2016 at Events Cinema Tuggerah.

Tickets are now on sale!

Adult \$20

Child \$15

Family Pass \$60

(2 x Adults, 2 x Children)

# Bat on a Wire

"There is a baby flying-fox all by itself on powerlines outside the Doyalston RSL". The lady was concerned. "It looks so vulnerable up there and there are crows hanging around". Luckily she rang 4325 0666, the ARC phone number and reported it to us.

The Ausgrid emergency line was great when we rang about the baby, they understood that the electrocuted flying-fox mother had probably been taken by a predator and promised to alert the linesmen for a rescue.

Soon our ARC rescuers, Janine and Chloe found themselves lying on their wallaby rescue blankets on the side of the highway looking up at a tiny flying-fox on the highest power line. Time passed the little flying-fox looked weaker and weaker. Our gallant rescuers hoped that the really strong wind would blow the baby off the powerlines. But it gripped on desperately as they do.

Then Ausgrid arrived. The baby was on a really high voltage line and initially it was thought it would be impossible to rescue it but then the wonderful Ausgrid linesmen worked out a way they could safely get it down.

The ARC would like to thank everyone involved in the rescue, our concerned member of the public, the Ausgrid team, especially the wonderful linesmen who came to the rescue, and of course Janine and Chloe for waiting so patiently.

Unfortunately this is the time of year when mother flying-foxes do come to grief on electric powerlines and they are often carrying live babies who take days to die but this time the story has a happy ending, as Janine and Chloe left the scene 3 hours or so after they had arrived with a little flying-fox baby, wind-blown and tired but alive and crying for a feed.

Dr Kerryn Parry-Jones

