

WILDLIFE TALES



February 2017



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

Wildlife ARC Facebook page: www.facebook.com/wildlifearc

Search and Rescue Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WildlifeArcsearchandrescue

NEXT MEETINGS:

19th February, 19th March *then* 16th April 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*

Reptile Report

It is summer time and our local reptiles are out in full force. One of the perennial favourites, the Blue-Tongue Lizard, is unfortunately doing it especially tough at present. Favourite foods of blueys include snails and Funnel Web Spiders, so they are great to have in the garden. They need good hiding places such as lengths of PVC pipe and water bowls.

Wildlife ARC has had a spate of Blueys being mauled by pet dogs; we estimate so far about 30. Two of them were pregnant females. They do not lay eggs, but give birth to live young. This beautiful little fellow (below left) is the sole survivor of these two pregnancies. We are asking everyone to please keep their pet cats and dogs away from our reptiles and other fauna. The dry weather is bringing many of our native animals into closer contact with pets and people as they seek out the water that they need.

We have never had so many Blue-Tongues killed like this and that is not counting those hit by cars or cut with whipper snippers. Please be aware of these issues and if you find an animal in trouble contact **Wildlife ARC on 43250666**. We will do our best to rescue and care for any wildlife in need of help.



Mauled Blue-Tongue being euthanased at vets

Tristan Varman, Scie Hoschke, Samantha Chatfield

Flying Fox Report

“A flood of flying-foxes” or “What happened to Christmas 2017?”

by

Kerryn Parry-Jones – Flying-fox Head Carer

Flying-foxes are weird. The Grey-headed Flying-fox which is the one found on the Coast is considered to be “Vulnerable” by both the Commonwealth and NSW Governments, yet its total population is about 400,000. That’s a lot of bats. The problem is that too many are dying too young and so they are not replacing themselves. So each year the population is getting smaller and extinction has been predicted as occurring sometime in the next 100 years.

The other strange thing is that although they can be found from Bundaberg in Queensland, right around the coast to Adelaide in South Australia, they are considered to be one “super-population” which is linked by their high mobility. So NPWS permits animals that are found in Casino, for example to be moved anywhere in the State for rehabilitation and to be taken anywhere within their distribution in NSW for release.

The size of the flying-fox population provides challenges for rehabilitators! Particularly when one of the “threatening processes” that are causing the fall in their overall population kills, damages or orphans large numbers of flying-foxes. For example in November 2014 a heat wave in Casino killed tens of thousands of animals at the local colony and orphaned 500+ babies. That is a lot of 4-5 hourly feeds! The local rehabilitation group did wonders stabilising them but importantly they put out an SOS throughout NSW for help and the “bat network” swung into action. Cars started arriving at the scene from everywhere and Casino bats were taken to carers (including ARC carers) throughout NSW.

This year was a bit different. In October and November, when the babies were only a week or so old, there was a major food shortage that covered most of the NSW coast. Everywhere, mother flying-foxes lost their milk and their babies came in when they were too weak to hang onto them. In general they were well cared for: mum was still cleaning them, but they were starving. We used 143 ARC numbers in November and December and that is a lot of baby bats to feed! But most of the other groups were in the same situation or worse so we couldn’t transfer any outside the ARC and in fact we accepted some from other groups who had no spare capacity. The reality was that many groups stopped collecting downed babies from colony sites and, or euthanased the babies they had collected because they didn’t have the carers to care for them.

A horrible couple of months! We have survived it because unlike many groups we have tremendous depth in the Flying-fox Section. We have 42 vaccinated carers! That is fantastic. Admittedly not all can take on a baby flying-fox, because they also care for other animals or because they have “retired” from the Section but they can help rescue or cut fruit or generally help people stressed out with night feeds.

We have a huge success rate rearing baby flying-foxes so nearly all of our little babies are now grown and are coming back to be put in the release program. We have almost 70 babies in this program at present, as well as our 25 long term resident companion animals, so cutting fruit for them every day is a major undertaking. Our fruit-cutters need help. If you have a couple of hours you could donate any day of the week we would welcome you with open arms. Please come along! And as for our valiant group of current fruit cutters, you are wonderful! Thanks. Thanks as well to everyone who has been involved in the rescue and care of these wonderful, vulnerable animals for this season and a special thanks to the ARC who helped finance vaccinations for our new carers. Kerryn Parry-Jones



Others Section

Hi Everyone

Quiet on all fronts over the last few months glad to say.

The echidna in the photo was one that had to be re-located due to road works in the area. Thank you to Sara Horne for finding him a safer bushy area near to her home.

We have had a few bandicoots in over the last few months, I had a litter of three boys, small ones at 36,37 and 38 grams sadly they didn't make it. Any bandicoots under about the 45 gram mark are unlikely to survive. Bandicoots also succumb to a condition called ascites - a fluid build-up.

On a good note the 100gram bandicoot that Jill handed on to me is very active and doing well.

Look out for "others" training coming up. Kelly our previous HC of the others section has kindly offered to run this for me.

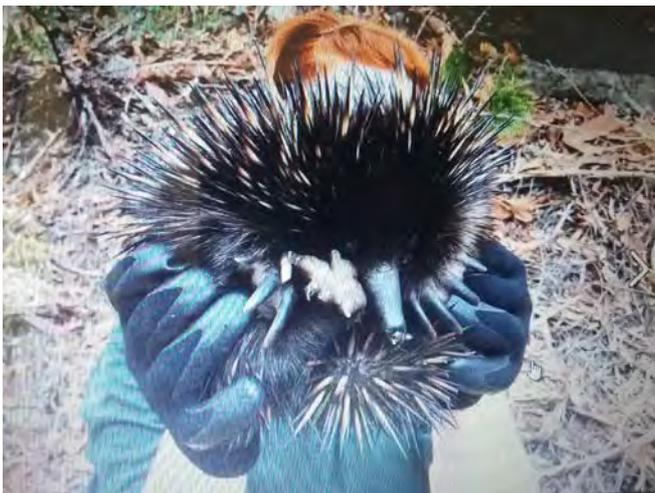
Always happy to do one on one with carers as "others" come in.

ALL bandicoot cat attacks, please get to a vet for treatment if they are to have any chance of survival they need antibiotic coverage.

Kind regards

Sharron Jones

Head carer others section.



Macropod and Wombat Report

It's hard to know where to begin this first report for 2017 - the end of 2016 was so busy for the macropod and wombat team! To start at the beginning, our Module 1 training was held on the 10th of December, and it was a great day - a big thank you to those who attended! We covered a lot of information, and I'm pleased to welcome some new rescuers to our team: Renee, Benay, and Miriam. The next Module 1 training day will be in May - the information is already up on the database. Everyone who is already on the macropod list will need to attend a Module 1 training this year to ensure their knowledge is current - and anyone wishing to raise joeys will need to attend Module 2 as well.

We've had several new arrivals: a Swamp Wallaby boy who is with Alison, now named (appropriately) Mischief. Janine's got a new pinkie, an Eastern Grey boy named Toby who has now opened his eyes to look at the world - exciting times ahead! I've had two new additions here too, Penny the Redneck Wallaby who was big enough to move into the pen with the other Rednecks, and a furring wallaroo I've named Barry. Pattie's had another young kangaroo boy - Cruiser - join her little mob. And I'd like to give special recognition to Julie, who bravely took on a 120 grams Swamp Wallaby, and against all the odds has managed to pull her through. Little Nova is now nearly 200 grams and has started to open her eyes - a credit to Julie's hard work and dedication, when even I was sure she was going to die.



Karl



Baz



All joeys in care are doing well and weekly weigh-ins are all showing gains! Andrew's swampy boys were moved to Alison's, and have now been released. Yarra the wallaroo was released just before Christmas, and is still coming back daily. Seeing her thriving in her natural environment is a huge achievement, as when she came in to care she had head trauma that we weren't even sure she would survive. She is a completely different animal now, confident and full of attitude. And lastly, five kangaroos were moved from Pattie's place to my big roo pen in preparation for their own release. A big thank you to everyone who helped with the big day - and also to our wonderful vet, Emma, from Greencross Wyong and her nurse for their help on the day. The roos didn't take long to recover from their sedation and as always it's a relief to get them all transported safely.

On the wombat front, it's been fortunately quiet. Baby Boromir is going along great guns with Pattie, and is starting to get up to some typical wombat antics - from what I hear, he's providing Pattie with plenty of entertainment in the middle of the night! Ravi and Noah, who we released at the end of last year, are still regular visitors and are doing well.

A huge thank you to my wonderful team for all their hard work in 2016, and here's to a fantastic new year.

Kelly
Macropod Head Carer

Welcome New Members

Wildlife A.R.C. would like to welcome the following new members from December and January.
Nicky Wright, Kaia Robins, Nicole Davies, Leanne Kirkman and Nerrida Lewis

Bird Section Report

This beautiful bird is a fledgling Sea Eagle that got itself stuck in a chicken coop when looking for an easy meal. He came into care just before Christmas, very thin but with no obvious injuries and a week later was transferred to Peggy McDonald in the Southern Highlands to continue his recovery. Peggy has a huge circular aviary that allows the birds to fly around continuously and build stamina. Sea Eagles are now listed as vulnerable due to loss of habitat and other stressors and this bird will likely be part of a research program to track his movements for up to a year after release.



This X-Ray shows a broken humerus on a Peregrine Falcon that is currently being rehabilitated. Bird bones take 3 weeks to heal and at the end of that time another X-Ray will determine if this bird will continue to be rehabilitated or if euthanasia is necessary.



Possum and Glider Report

2017 has been a busy one already, with over 80 possums and gliders in care our section is quite busy. We are seeing young ones coming in thick and fast, I have conducted some one-on-one training and welcome the expanding carers list.

Welcome Natalie Finch and Sara Horne as supervisors - keep up the great work girls. We have several Mountain Brushtail possums also known as short eared possums in care. We have been able to observe and document how different these possums are.

We will be conducting a walk-through native possum food identification in the near future.

Possum team continues to have great success with our pinkie possum team, we have really specialised in the area of pinkies.

Does anyone remember the severe dermatitis case? Here is an update for you. This is her bubba now and this is her now - huge change!

Continue with the great work everyone

Alison George

Possum and Glider HC



My First Sugar Glider

Introducing Lilo! Lilo came to ARC after being found alone, cold and scared inside the Erina Men's Shed. She was 37grams! She is now fast approaching 70grams and when she is big enough (110grams-120grams) she will move in with her boyfriend Stitch who is patiently waiting for her. Lilo's favourite foods are flowers, meal worms and banana (very small amounts) the bigger she gets the more active she becomes of a night. She has now moved into her flexarium where she can practice her gliding skills. Lilo and Stitch will be released together in the wild with hope they will make Sugar Glider babies of their own and the cycle of life will start all over again.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sugar Gliders live in tiny tree hollows in woodlands that contain sufficient food. Due to recent land clearing the possums and gliders of the Central Coast are losing their homes faster than ever before! Wildlife ARC would like to encourage the Central Coast to help our local struggling wildlife by placing a nest box in a tree in your backyard. You can buy a nest box from the Bateau Bay Men's Shed, contact Fred on 0435 807 633 or Graham on 43 326141 or you could get the kids involved and make your own by downloading a box pattern from: <http://www.hollowloghomes.com/downloads>

Natalie
Wildlife ARC
Volunteer



Introductory Training Days

Saturday Feb 4, 2017 or Wednesday Feb 15, 2017
Wyoming Community Centre
9:00am Registration
9:30am Start

Please bring lunch, pen and paper. Morning and afternoon tea will be supplied. New members can join on the day - cost is \$30. Manuals will be for sale - \$10. Items from food stores will also be available.

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

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.

2016 Stats

Fates	Birds						Frogs						Mammals						Reptiles				Non ARC	Total
	Kooka	Magpie	Tawny	Parrot	Raptor	Sea/Water	Other	Frog	FFox	Microbat	Possum	Mac	Wombat	Monotreme	Rodent	Other	Lizard	Turtle	Snake					
Animal not located	4	4	3	7	0	30	10	0	3	1	11	7	1	1	1	0	9	55	0	1	148			
Dead on arrival	2	2	0	11	0	11	12	0	10	2	42	35	3	0	0	3	0	10	0	3	146			
Died	8	21	21	79	8	68	188	2	13	11	164	18	1	1	5	9	24	12	1	3	657			
Escaped from care	2	3	1	13	0	15	11	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	52			
Euthanased	21	14	24	53	1	32	42	1	1	0	29	14	6	2	1	0	30	11	3	1	286			
In care	9	8	13	26	1	70	46	2	132	20	62	16	1	0	0	0	9	5	3	0	423			
Left alone	1	3	8	11	1	21	23	0	7	1	21	6	1	3	0	3	14	31	1	1	157			
Number unused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	36	37			
Permanent Care	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2			
Phone advice only/Inquiry	18	23	19	86	2	76	99	4	2	3	51	11	2	14	6	14	57	256	6	78	827			
Released	68	76	65	123	7	148	186	1	30	7	118	4	2	4	0	4	50	86	20	0	999			
Relocated	0	2	0	5	0	11	5	0	9	1	1	2	0	3	1	2	16	101	7	0	166			
Resolved by other organisation	1	1	2	7	1	3	12	0	7	7	6	11	0	1	0	1	3	11	0	5	79			
Resolved by vet	5	9	4	42	3	25	23	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	2	136			
Returned to owner/Rehomed	0	1	0	9	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	0	0	26			
Reunited with parents	2	5	3	1	0	17	18	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50			
Transferred - Fauna park/zoo	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2			
Transferred - Other wildlife care organisation	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	19	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	26			
Treated in situ	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	5	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	17			
Total	141	173	164	473	27	535	681	10	234	53	538	124	19	31	14	37	219	589	43	131	4236			