

WILDLIFE TALES



April 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:

23rd April, 21st May, 18th June 2017

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

Flying Fox Fundraiser

Please consider a donation to our fundraiser for flying fox care (campaign ends 21 April!)

We need your support to help us look after hundreds of vulnerable flying-foxes, the survivors of colonies affected by the recent extremely high temperatures and food shortages.

www.chuffed.org/project/help-us-save-flying-foxes



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HOW IT WORKS

Help Us Save flying-foxes

By Wildlife Animal Rescue and Care Society Inc



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Diary of a First- Time Flying Fox Carer

This is the first year I have looked after baby flying-foxes. What a delight!

Initially, like a lot of uneducated people, I wasn't sure just what to expect. Do they have easily spread diseases? Do they smell? , will they take off and fly all over the place? Etc. etc. I am happy to say that none of these problems are true. I had been told by fellow bat keepers that flying foxes are just so sweet and have these adorable eyes and how lucky I was, and did I know they were just 2 points off being human (I'm not sure what this means, but I'm impressed).

So into my life at 110g came little Bach, a grey headed flying fox found on the ground amongst bark, leaves and debris of a car park. Of course I was all fingers and thumbs but it was explained how they lived their lives upside down, how to feed them and tend to their ablutions etc. So off I went happy. Then I thought he would probably need and love a mate. Because no doubt of the influx of flying foxes at the moment, and because Bach seemed to be going so well, I was given a little girl, Blossom. She is a bit smaller but just as lovely.

I didn't think it would be any more trouble, but didn't take into account just how much flying foxes identify with you. So it became a quest as to who would be fed first and get the longest cuddles – not that I played favourites, how could I? They progressed from living in their basket on mummies, to 'hanging out' on an airer in my spare room, and as soon as they heard my footsteps, they began their chirping – letting me know just how hungry they were and how happy they would be to see me.

All was going well. Bach had started to 'spread his wings' and I had to be careful entering the room in case he was on the floor somewhere. He would often be found hanging on the cane chair I sat on to feed them. Blossom was probably about a week behind, but she too began exploring the room, even if it was just the short downward flop from the airer to the bed, crawling along that just (I'm sure) to get my attention. They really are lovely.

However, the day came when Bach, hanging on the airer, saw me feeding Blossom. He looked and you could see him thinking – how far is she? can I make it in one fly? It finally got too much for him and he took off and there we were, me feeding an impatient Blossom, and Bach demanding his rights at cuddles. It was all excitement with each bat demanding its rights – a truly memorable time. Lovely.

Both Bach and Blossom had now progressed to 'flying' to the bed and climbing up the curtains. There was the occasion when Bach took off from the curtains while I was feeding Blossom and landed on my head – some 3-4 meters away. Time had come to move them to a larger cage, and there they are today. Both are happy, both are still very keen whenever I appear. Just love it.

They are now both over 300g and are currently being weaned. I suppose this means they will need a larger cage and nature will take over and they will become wild native bats. When this happens I will have to surrender them, but I will miss them. It has been a wonderful time.

Lesley Hale (February)

Update: Both are now at Wambina in a larger group preparing for release

Macropod Report

A short report this time, as I'm relieved to say there's not been much happening in the macropod section. We've had very few bubs in (and those we have, for the most part, were pinkies that were dead or dying upon coming into care). We've had a few oddball rescues - Tristan and Jill rescued a swampie that had gotten stuck in a pool fence - successfully released with no injuries.

The better news is that we've had a number of releases, all successful. The five Eastern Greys Pattie raised have gone out (and have successfully befriended Buddy and Springer, who were released three years ago and have been visiting occasionally ever since). I also soft released two swamp wallabies, Leonard and Fiona, and two rednecks, Karl and Maddy. The swampies hung around for barely a few days before going bush (dropping in for a snack when they happen to feel like it) but the rednecks haven't gone far, and Karl in particular seems to have missed the word 'release' - he'd rather lay around in the nice cozy pen. Well, that's why it's called soft release!

As usual, many thanks to the hard working carers and rescuers. Special thanks to Jacky and Pattie for managing the section while I'm on my honeymoon - I'm currently writing this report from New Zealand! And thanks as well to Jacky and especially Julie for taking care of my joeys while I'm away - I couldn't manage without you!

One last thing, a reminder about Macropod Training in May/June. All the details are on the database, and you MUST attend if you want to be in the macropod section. Any questions, please send me a message.

Kelly Nash (Hunt)



Bird Report

Number of calls for the month :	131
Number of animals released for the month:	33
Number of animals euthanased for month:	12
Number of animals died for month:	20

The number of calls for birds has dropped considerably from 234 in January easing the pressure on bird carers who have been run off their feet in recent months. A big thank you to Cathy Stubbs and Yvonne Naftel who have taken on more than their fair share of birds as well as others in the section who have advised, couriered, rescued, cared and helped to spread the load. Your efforts are recognised and appreciated by all of us.

With all the rain we have had in recent weeks, slugs and snails are out and about which means there is an increased risk of rat lungworm disease. Tawny Frogmouths are particularly susceptible but any bird or mammal that is likely to eat either slugs or snails may become infected. Symptoms to watch for include paralysis of the legs, inability to right themselves when placed on their back, eyes twitching back and forth (nystagmus) and possible vocalisation in the later stages. Tawny's are usually found on the ground with their wings extended to support themselves. They may be thin if the disease has progressed slowly and birds that have very poor body condition should be euthanased rather than attempting to treat as I have not had any success in these cases. The condition cannot be positively identified unless the animal is necropsied so any Tawny presenting with neurological issues that are not accompanied by obvious trauma should be considered a potential rat lungworm case. The treatment is supportive care, anti-inflammatory, antibiotic and wormer. Please contact me for further advice if you suspect a bird you have in care may have rat lungworm.

With fewer birds coming in I am looking forward to having time to organise another advanced training for the section as well as 3 beginner training days over the next 3 months. Please keep an eye on your email and database messages for further information.

Cheers,

Jacky
Head Carer