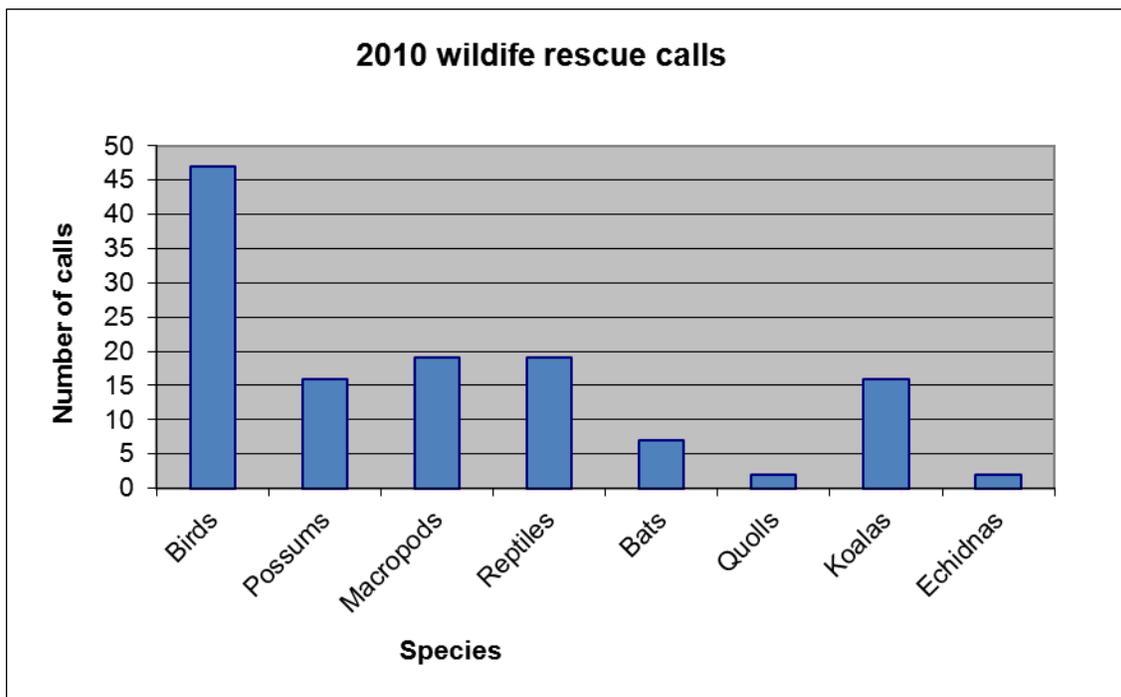


The year that was for the

The Granite Belt Wildlife Carers would like to let you know what we've been up during 2010, and how your contributions have made a difference to the animals we have had in care.

Animals in care or rescued



In total we had over 150 calls to our rescue phone and other carer's phones, resulting in approx. 84 rescues, and advice given for the rest.

51% of the calls were about birds that had been hit by cars, fallen from nests or brought in by cats. Some of the more unusual calls included a pelican who had been shot, emus raiding rubbish bins in Goondiwindi, a king parrot down a chimney, an ibis that had hit electric wires and a sparrowhawk with an injured wing.

15% of the calls were for macropods, either adults that had been hit by cars and needed to be put down, or joeys rescued from pouches. One joey that came into care was a rare black-stripe wallaby who was relocated to a colony of his own kind for final rehabilitation prior to release.

12% of the calls were for reptiles including blue tongue lizards in houses or shops, turtles with cracked shells, a clutch of turtle eggs that we tried to hatch, and of course the snakes. Our carers do not handle snakes, all we are able to do is give advice about how to deter snakes or encourage them to move away from where they are found.

8% of the calls were for possums and gliders. We got several calls from people who had had trees chopped down but then found the nest in a hollow part of the trunk.

7% of the calls were for bats, both the fruit bats and microbats. There are only two of our members who have had the vaccination for Lyssa virus, therefore a lot of the time we can only provide advice.

5% of the calls were for koalas, some of which needed longer term treatment in care. Koalas carry the Chlamydia bacteria and after three weeks on antibiotics, they can usually be released where they came from.

1% of the calls were for animals you don't usually see like echidnas and quolls. One unusual call was for a platypus washed up in flood waters near Rivertree.

Membership

By the end of 2010 our membership stood at 25 carer members and 22 support members with most of our members renewing their membership for 2011. For still a relatively small group, almost everyone is active in that if they're not caring for animals, then they are supporting us in every way in our rescue and fundraising ventures.

Fundraising

We had our usual fundraising ventures including the stall at the show, our two Monster Markets in March and September and a stall at Gardenfest. The income we made at these events helped offset the \$400/month expenditure that it costs us to feed and house all the animals that come into care. We also received over \$500 from people who have opened Community Saver accounts with the Heritage Building Society, and named us as the recipient charity, so coupled with donations amounting to over \$1000, and our fundraising efforts we are still able to totally subsidise the food and some equipment our carers need.

Grants

We were successful in obtaining a \$100 voucher from Australian Wildlife Supplies, \$51 from IGA under their community grant scheme, \$115 from the Southern Downs Regional Council to go towards attending workshops, \$500 from the Quoll Seekers Network to build a quoll-proof enclosure to keep quolls in whilst they are in care, and 60 x 10L buckets from Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary that we use as artificial nests.

We were not successful in obtaining three lots of funding. One, to purchase a freezer, and two, to build a purpose-built koala care enclosure and three, to build a purpose-built flight cage for rehabilitated birds.

Projects

Projects we finalised included:

- a series of information and photo display panels that we have to support our stalls,
- three taxidermying projects (white possum, greater glider & platypus) which make fantastic teaching aids,
- the introduction of homeopathic remedies when caring for animals,
- the creation of the Granite Belt Quoll Seekers Network, and
- a presence at the biodiversity day at Killarney.

2011 Projects and Activities

During 2011 we're going to undertake the following:

- run another native plant drive,
- work with Kirstin Widderick from Stanthorpe Vet Care Services to give an animal health workshop/demonstration to our carers covering basic first aid, wound maintenance, and how to recognize symptoms of illness or disease.
- our macropod carers will endeavour to attend the advanced macropod care workshop to be held in Nambour in March, and
- you will find us at our usual stalls being at the show, the two Monster Markets at the Broadwater Hall in March and September, and at Gardenfest.

More info may be found at: <http://www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/gbwc>