



Rescue Phone Round-up – April 2016 to April 2017

Unfortunately, we did not have a continuous phone rescue service to offer the general public of the Southern Downs due to illness of both Betty and myself, although I kept the phone with me for 5½ out of 6 hospital stays, totalling 14 weeks! It was quite strange to answer the rescue phone in the ICU waiting room at Greenslopes Hospital giving advice to people on the Southern Downs to help them solve animal problems, or direct them to Betty and/or Molly for further care and advice.

There was a total of 338 calls from April to December, 2016 plus 100 up to April 1st, 2017 - totalling 438. There were calls from all over Southern Queensland including Goondiwindi, Millmerran, Aratula, Warwick, Crows Nest, the Toowoomba region and the Granite Belt. We also received a few calls from coastal Northern N.S.W.

Our friendship and mutual assistance with the Tenterfield group was expressed recently when a few of us shared a lovely afternoon tea in Tenterfield. Sharing experiences to find release sites for unusual animals in our care with other wildlife groups has also been interesting, and it's reassuring to know that there are other liked-minded animal lovers out there.

The main species we helped with our rescue service was birds. We helped 35 varieties, from little wrens to swans, and it would come as no surprise that magpies and corellas are the most frequent patients. There were 165 calls to assist birds, including one call to assist with 4 eggs. There were 8 varieties of macropods from tiny ruffus bettongs, to a red kangaroo presently in Carmell's care, with red-necked wallabies being the most frequent customers. The possum/glider family were represented with 26 calls. The 23 calls we received for reptiles, turtles and tortoises were particularly well assisted by Kathryn and Steve.

When dealing with very young creatures, we win some and lose some. Considering the very premature states of many of the joeys, Betty does a wonderful job of giving them a second chance at life, even though this in some cases is quite short. Many success stories and releases tell us of our success with the animals we rehabilitate. 8 echinida calls raised some "prickly" questions especially when one got lost in my house! 10 koala calls lead Betty on some merry chases all over the district. There were 11 calls for large and micro bats. Gary was called at least 25 times to euthanise roos hit on the road. A unusual call was from a lady who took an injured koala to work with her in Warwick and asked us to please hurry as there was blood all over her car. Another call came from a man who was trapped in the toilet with a microbat – he was sure it would bite him to death. On a lighter note, Betty's hopes were raised when a baby wombat was reported but it turned out to be a baby rabbit. We also helped a possum in the pool at WIRAC Warwick; a very small wren was caught in a large spider's web; 16 possums that moved into Maryvale school during the recent Christmas holidays; and well-intentioned backpackers who found a "mini-magpie", also known as a peewee! However, we couldn't assist with the call requesting the removal of a Great Dane dog from someone's yard in Noosa.

That concludes my long report. I enjoy answering the rescue phone and the opportunity to help our group and native wildlife. Many thanks to everyone who has helped Peter and I, especially with the load of wood which was delivered to start us off for the winter season. Many thanks everyone.

Ruth Bott
Vice President