



Wild About Wildlife !

July - December 2009



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Description

The Powerful Owl is a large owl with very distinctive yellow eyes. It is dark brown above mottled and barred whitish. It is white below with grey-brown v-shaped markings. The feet are yellowish and feathered. The immature are paler with heavier white barring and white face with darker eye patches.

Other Names
Eagle Owl

Size
60 - 66cm

Habitat

Pairs occupy a large, probably permanent, home range in dense mountain gullies, scrub, coastal forests and woodlands, pine plantations

Food

Tree-dwelling mammals such as the Common Ringtail Possum and the Greater Glider, birds, rabbits and small ground-dwelling marsupials.

Breeding

From June - September and usually in a vertical hollow with decaying debris to line their nest in a large old tree or branch at least 8 metres off the ground.

Range

Eastern and south-eastern Australia from south-eastern Queensland to Victoria. Mainly within 200km of coast.

Information courtesy of ozanimals.com website

Online News From Now On...

As many of you may be aware, there is a lot of work goes in to producing our newsletter and unfortunately I am unable to continue to do so in one publication. Paula and I have made the executive decision to provide informative articles and group updates on the granitenet website. So from now on if you check the GBWC webpage on granitenet you will be able to see what is

going on with the group, fundraising activities, wildlife updates and heaps more. The webpage address is below. Be sure to check it out and if you have any information you would like to add to the webpage please be sure to mention it

at the next meeting.

**GBWCI
Committee**
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Vice President:
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Catch up with the Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Online at.....

www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/gbwc

Rescued, In Care and Released

Cherie and Janice are our very clever bird carers and have had the following animals over the past few months:

- Butcher bird in care
- Mask owl in care and now released
- Peewee which unfortunately had to be put down
- Kookaburra also put down
- Crimson rosella in care
- 4 eastern rosellas in care
- Indian myna in care
- Magpie released
- Crested pigeon put down
- Galah in care

Ruth, Peter and the team of junior part-time wildlife carers at Broadwater School have had 5 eastern grey kangaroos in care "Luca", "Molly", "Andre", "Merry" and one other plus rescued 2 magpies.

Kathryn has taken over the loving care of 2 eastern greys "Holly" & "Hope" from their nervous Mum Pat. Pat reared Hope from a 150 gram pink joey and has fought tooth and nail to do so. Well done Pat and good luck little Hope. Kathryn also has 1 wallaroo named "Nellie". Kathryn is one of our newer carers but has filled the role brilliantly and loving her new furred family.

Pat and Dennis have had the following rescues:

- An eastern grey kangaroo "William" – given to Paula for care.

- Red necked wallaby "Sam" – given to Gill then Betty and still in care.
- Red necked wallaby "Gemma" – which was put down due to injuries.
- Red necked wallaby "Ben" – given to Gill then Betty but died.
- Red necked wallaby "Toby" – given to Betty and still in care.
- Red necked wallaby "Buttons" – put down due to illness
- Eastern grey "Nickolas" – given to Paula for care.
- Eastern grey "Patrick" – also put down.



Carmen has had 2 red necked wallabies, 1 still in care, 1 has since died.

Jolene has taken care of 4 gliders (all released except one who keeps coming back....). She has also relocated an echidna, two red-bellied black snakes and two blue tongue lizards.

Betty and Sally have had heaps of rescues over the past 6 months but perhaps the most challenging was that of a metre long goanna from the spare parts storage room in Pierpoint Motors. The start of the problem was finding the goanna which had been in the store-room for two days. Once found, behind



a shelving unit full of tractor weights, the goanna was reluctant to let go of his hiding spot. With some very physical persuasion we managed to get him into a cage and then released him at Betty's place on Amiens Road. Many people don't realise that we have goannas in our area because they can be very elusive in the wild.

Of the 9 possums taken into Sally's care only two have survived and one has been released. Dog and cat attack being the main cause of death.

Betty has rescued a number of koalas, of particular interest was cranky Fred who had severe dog attack injuries, and also a large female with ovarian cysts which were treated and reduced dramatically. They have both been released back into the wild. Other animals rescued included red necked wallabies, wallaroos, brown goshawk, galahs, gliders and possums.

Beak and Feather Disease (psittacine circoviral disease)

PCD affects parrots and related species and is often fatal to the birds that contract it. The virus occurs naturally in the wild and has also caused a number of deaths of threatened parrots in captive breeding programs. The virus can affect birds of all ages, but particularly juveniles or young birds. It kills feather and beak cells. Symptoms of the acute form of PCD include diarrhoea and feather abnormalities, and death may occur suddenly within one to two weeks of the first symptoms. Many infected birds do not respond to treatment but those that do survive the virus develop an immunity to it. As the disease has been in Australia for a long time, a major epidemic is unlikely. The virus multiplies in the liver and can be transmitted orally or in faeces or feathers. Techniques for maintaining the health of birds in captivity include disinfecting nest boxes, using appropriately designed aviaries and nest boxes, and controlling how the birds are grouped, their nutrition and hygiene, and the temperature of their surroundings. For more information visit www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/tap/beakandfeather/

Our First 'Humidity Crib' Baby Success Story !

We have in the past found it very difficult to rear pinky (immature unhaired) marsupial mammals. **The environment inside the mother's pouch is very humid and at a constant temperature. With very little success we considered having to make a ruling on the rescuing of pinkies and that we would not attempt to rear them if less than 200 grams for a joey kangaroo and under 50 grams for a joey possum.** While many of the pinkies received into care are from common species we felt it necessary however, to persist in perfecting the technique of rearing pinkies should we happen to receive a pinky of an endangered species. If we are confident with rearing common species pinkies then we can be confident to do our very best to help in the survival of an endangered species pinky that may come into care.

With our recently received grant funds we elected to purchase a thermostatically controlled humidity and heat cabinet for the use in rearing these pinkies.

The first occupant of the 'humidy crib' was a tiny 42 gram pinky brushtail possum with her eyes still shut and hairless transparent skin, appropriately named "Chilli" ! Chilli had been struggling to survive for nearly a week before she was placed in the humidy crib. Once in a controlled temperature, humid environment, she began to thrive, with the humidity being the key.

Chilli is now a very well developed teenage brushtail possum who is being prepared for release into the wild over the next couple of months.



Basic Rescue Requirements by Jim Pollock BVSc

Should you need to rescue an injured wild animal, after ensuring personal safety, there are Five Key Requirements to remember to ensure that the animal is given the best chance of survival and recovery. These requirements are :

- **Keep The Animal Warm** - This is a critical part of emergency treatment. Warming should be gradual and not overdone and can be accomplished with body heat, heat pad, humidicrib, heat lamp, warm fluids, warm bath or by wrapping up in a flannel blanket.
- **Provide Fluids** - Always assume that in most cases, orphan and injured animals will be up to 10% dehydrated. Oral fluids will treat most cases. Just water may be sufficient if the dehydration is due to lack of food and drink but in the case of diarrhea or disease the animal should be treated with an electrolyte. Fluids can be given by drinking/lapping, syringe, dropper, or bottle and teat and at body temperature.
- **Provide Energy Supplement** - Small pinky orphans have low stores of glucose and rely on being fed regularly on mothers milk. These pinkies need some glucose supplements to prevent hypoglycaemia that can often cause death.
- **Pain Relief** - Pain causes stress and this will inhibit the body's defenses. A lot of pain can be relieved by following simple procedures such as immobilizing fractures, cooling burns with cold water, strapping wings, and protecting wounds.
- **Relieve Stress** - Relieving stress can be a great help by simply placing the animal in a warm dark quiet box or cage and getting them to a veterinarian or wildlife carer as soon as possible.

Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc.

"A second chance for wildlife on the Granite Belt"

All correspondence to:
The Secretary
Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc.
c/- PO Box 27
Phone/Fax: 46 833 119
E-mail: pbboatfield@bigpond.com

We now have
43
members !



Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc. is a non profit group dedicated to rescuing and caring for sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife in the Granite Belt area of SE Qld.

Native wildlife can become victims from gunshot, collisions with overhead wires, windows and moving vehicles, contact with pesticides and other poisons, attack by domestic and feral animals, plus a variety of other hazards. With our wildlife in danger from so many of man's activities, Granite Belt Wildlife Carers are prepared to do their utmost to aid them in their time of unfortunate suffering.

If you find wildlife in distress, please call a registered wildlife rescuer as soon as possible. Telephone numbers are below. Tear them off and stick on your fridge.

What's On With Our Wildlife Over Summer ?

- **Sugar Glider babies have had about another month in the nest and then they're off.**
- **Kookaburras start digging out termite nests and cleaning out last year's nest ready for the breeding season.**
- **Male Koalas are finishing their mating rounds now so don't be scared if you hear blood curdling squeals from the bush at night. It's only Mr Koala servicing his harem in his territory of approx. 1klm radius.**
- Snakes, skinks and bearded dragons are out of winter hibernation and enjoying basking in the sun and soaking up the much needed heat.
- Bee Eaters and Dollar Birds have come down from the North, nested and now teaching the kids to survive in the wild before they head North again later.
- Baby echidnas are now 10cm long and getting very spikey, so Mum leaves them in the burrow. This is why it is important not to take echidnas out of their territory, as they may have a family hidden away.
- **Baby magpies are being fed in the trees or on the ground now and having flight and manoeuvre lessons.**
- Antechinus babies are out hunting with Mum, sometimes attached to her back, occasionally running alongside her.
- **Eastern Rosella babies are usually out of their nest now but demanding feed.**
- Galah babies are very noisy and hungry now!



Don't forget our Rescue Phone Number

0418 144 073

