



Wild about Wildlife!

Issue 1: Jul - Sep 2007

Highlights

- Welcome to GBWCI
- Animal rescue brochure
- Donations
- Animals in care, rescues and releases

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GBWCI Committee

President: Betty Balch
Ph: 46 833 271

Secretary: Paula Boatfield
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Vice President Ruth Bott
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Treasurer: Carmen Nevin
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Welcome to Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Incorporated!

Quite a mouthful really isn't it? But people around town will soon get used to this name popping up a lot. Up until now Stanthorpe and surrounds did not have it's own wildlife carers 'club' for want of a better word.

There were designated wildlife carers in our community, but no support network that comes from forming your own organization. Well that has changed now for the better!

The wildlife carers in and around the Granite Belt have formed their own non-profit organisation called the Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc (GBWC Inc). The

volunteer carers in this group provide a rescue service and home care for sick, orphaned and injured native animals. The main focus of GBWC Inc. is to ensure that upon release, the animal has the best chance possible to survive in the wild.



GBWC Inc.'s new logo

GBWC Inc. comprises carers with many years experience and expertise in the rescuing and rehabilitation of native animals. The majority of

animals which come into care are macropods (wallabies, kangaroos and wallaroos), possums, and a wide range of birds, but members have also cared for occasional koalas, echidnas and gliders. Reptiles, frogs, bats and flying foxes are catered for as well.

GBWC Inc. holds an overarching wildlife permit issued by the EPA, and they are supported locally by the Qld Parks and Wildlife rangers located at Girraween National Park and Stanthorpe's local vets.



Feathertail glider
(Acrobates pygmaeus)

Rescuing Wildlife

Have you ever come across an injured animal and not known what to do? Now GBWC Inc. have produced a handy brochure that you can keep in the glove box of your car and have it on hand at all times.

It briefly depicts the main steps to follow when trying to activate a rescue of injured birds, kangaroos, wallabies,

possums, gliders, echidnas, koalas, amphibians, reptiles and bats.

Please, at all times, however, assess the situation and do not put yourself in danger. If in doubt about how to handle an injured animal, please call one of the experienced carers listed on the brochure.

The brochure is available from the GBWC Inc. committee. It has also been distributed, with our thanks, via the Land for Wildlife, Landcare and Nature Refuge newsletters.





"Abby"
Eastern-grey kangaroo
(*Macropus giganteus*)

If a man aspires towards a righteous life, his first act of abstinence is from injury to animals.

LEO TOLSTOY,
The First Step



GBWC Inc. President, Betty Balch, and QPWS Ranger Neil releasing a koala

Did you know.....?

What are the 5 freedoms for animals as endorsed by the RSPCA?

1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst

By ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

2. Freedom from Discomfort

By providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease

By prevention by rapid diagnosis and treatment.

4. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour

By providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

5. Freedom from Fear and Distress

By ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

All of the carers registered with GBWC Inc strive to provide these five freedoms for every animal in care.

Donations

Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc gratefully accept donations in many forms, and from many sources.

This quarter we were privileged to accept \$350 from **Boroma Caravan Club** raised from raffles run during their recent-stay at Top of the Town Caravan Park

We would also like to thank Kerry from **"Chocart"** (www.chocart.com.au) for her donations of chocolate and chocolate moulds which we are using to make our signature handmade chocolates.

Finally we would like to thank Dan at **"The Snack Shack"** for his donation of plastic bags for our handmade chocolates.

GBWC Inc. members would like to thank everyone for their wonderful generosity and support.

A message from our President

It has been quite a year but finally we have our own group up and running. Who could believe it could take so long... but then throw in the odd holidays, weddings, illnesses and all the other odds and ends we have been involved in, that could explain it all a little bit.

Special mention should go to Paula in particular, for her dedication to the cause, and all the paperwork she has had to plough through, and Carmen, who took on quite a few of the clerical challenges

that had to be attended to, to allow Paula to have a little other time for herself occasionally. And the back up offered by Jo, Ruth and Pam....all who have been there when needed. Thanks to you all.

Now that we have all that bumpf is out of the way, we can hopefully get on with offering our members some workshops and back up that will make our challenges a little easier. Recently Fiona Luxton very kindly came and gave us a talk on Possum raising, but it

unfortunately clashed with some other events. Those who did attend had an enjoyable day.

Our numbers are slowly rising, and we are keen to have more members, even in a support role. Quite often it is handy to have someone who can baby sit for a day or two, or help with a rescue, or even do a rescue and take the patient to a carer. Contact us if you feel you would like to help in this role.

Cheers
Betty

Animals currently in care as at October 2007:

- 11 eastern grey kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*)
- 1 koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)

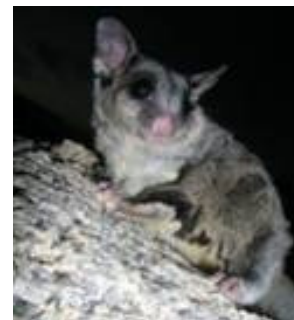


- 3 red-necked wallabies from approx 7—11 months of age (*Macropus rufogriseus*)



- 1 wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*)
- A range of birds including magpies, kingfishers, swallows, miners and a bronzewing.

- 2 ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*)
- 2 brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)



Rescues

Animals rescued this quarter were:

- 1 red-necked wallaby joey, whose mother had been hit by a vehicle, was rescued from Tunnel Rd, Dalveen .
- 1 quoll was rescued by Ranger Jo and Alex (Quoll Seekers Network), from inside a chookhouse at Limberlost Rd.
- 1 koala was rescued from Stables Rd, Glen Aplin. The koala's eyes were operated on and it remained in care for 2 weeks.
- 1 koala was rescued from Jones Rd. Again, it's eyes were operated on, and it received medication and care for 10 days.
- 1 koala was rescued from Boyce Rd, and again given medication and care for 2 weeks.
- 1 eastern grey kangaroo was picked up from West Warwick Vets
- Baby swallows were rescued from Cooks, Gluttons & Gourmets, and a miner bird was picked up from one of the vets.
- 1 young magpie was rescued from Kid's Korner after falling from the nest.



Releases

Animals released this quarter were:

- 2 eastern grey kangaroos were soft released at Boatfields residence, Amiens.
- 1 swamp wallaby was soft released at Balch's residence, Stanthorpe.
- A koala was released at Girraween NP after being in care for 10 weeks at Australia Zoo.
- The quoll mentioned above was released at a chook-less location.
- The 3 koalas mentioned above were subsequently released at their rescue sites.
- 1 squirrel glider was transferred to another carer for release with a known population of gliders
- 1 wallaroo has been soft released at the Fawcett's residence, Stanthorpe





Granite Belt Wildlife Carers
Incorporated

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**Member Tally
to Date:
17**

Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc. is a non profit group dedicated to rescuing and caring for sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife in the GraniteBelt 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 on the front of this leaflet and in the Granite Belt Informer.

"Alfie"
Pretty-face or Whiptail
Wallaby
(*Macropus parryi*)



What's Happening!

Wildlife Awareness Month

October is Wildlife Awareness Month, which makes it the perfect time to launch this, our first newsletter, "**Wild about Wildlife!**".

We anticipate making this newsletter available to all our members and other interested parties within our community.

Electronic copies are available from Paula at pbboatfield@bigpond.com and hard copies will be available from Betty at Granite Belt Realty.

We welcome feedback on our first newsletter and would like to know what issues you would like discussed or information you would like us to investigate and report on.

Handmade Animal Chocolates



Ranger Jo McLellan is organizing a **Chocolate Fundraising Activity** where wonderfully delicious handmade chocolates in the shapes of Australian native animals are packaged and made available for sale.

Initially she will be running this event through Ballandean State School, and if successful, will be expanding it to include other schools in the area. For more information e-mail Jo at jolene.mclellan@epa.qld.gov.au

Macropod Workshop

Betty will be running a Macropod Workshop which will cover the basics of caring for these animals which includes kangaroos, wallabies and wallaroos. Also present will be Geoff Hayter from QPWS - Toowoomba to meet our members and give us a run down on what QPWS expect from our newly formed group. A flyer will be distributed when a date has been finalized.

Next GBWC Inc. meeting

The next general meeting and end-of-year BBQ will be held on Sunday 9th December, 2007 at the Balch's residence. All members, especially new ones, welcome!!