



Wild About Wildlife !

April - June 2009



Inside this issue:

Rescue Kits	1
What's on with our Wildlife April-June	2
Sweet Teats	3
Rescued, In Care and Released	4
A Rare Find	5
Monster Market	5
Rescue Contacts	6

All six species of Australian glider are found in Queensland, five of them in the south-east of the State. They range in size from the tiny feathertail glider, which can sit in a child's hand, to the solitary and regionally vulnerable greater glider. The Queensland Glider Network (QGN) was established in early 2006 to support glider populations through communication, education, data collection and mapping. QGN aims to raise awareness of gliders and their habitat requirements. They want to improve community knowledge and interest in gliders. They hope to achieve this by being a hub for glider conservation, research and information exchange in Queensland. They want to educate communities to enable them to support their local glider populations. QGN is recruiting wildlife enthusiasts to be involved with the network. Wherever you live in Queensland, just complete and return the QGN registration form from the website. As a QGN member you will receive a regular electronic QGN news, priority booking for workshops and opportunities to volunteer in QGN activities.



For further details of the Queensland Glider Network and other WPSQ (Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland) Projects go to www.wildlife.org.au

(All glider photos and information courtesy of the website.)

GBWCI Committee

President:

Betty Balch
Ph: 0437 897 100

Vice President:

Ruth Bott
Ph: 46 833 319

Secretary:

Paula Boatfield
Ph: 46 833 119

Treasurer:

Vicki Cavanagh
Ph: 46 810 575

Rescue Kits and Dedicated Phone Number

Many wildlife groups have a dedicated mobile phone number for people to ring to report rescues and this phone is rostered to members of the group for short periods at a time. It was voted at our last meeting that we purchase a mobile phone as a dedicated phone number for rescues and that the phone be handed on each rescuer after a period of time. This phone number

is to be the number we advertise for rescues. The number is **0418 144 073**.

At the last meeting each rescuer also received their much anticipated rescue kits which have been brilliantly prepared by Paula. Each kit contains various items as pictured which may be needed for a cross section of animal rescues.

Well done to Paula for her

efforts.



www.arwh.org

The Australian Registry of Wildlife Health

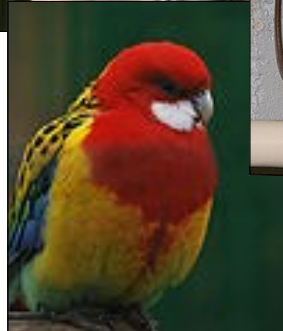
MISSION STATEMENT:

The Australian Registry of Wildlife Health is committed to contributing to the preservation of Australia's biodiversity through increased understanding of the interactions among animals, the environment, and disease causing agents.

While wandering through the marvelous world wide web I recently discovered this very informative website. The Australian Registry of Wildlife Health is a collaboration of expertise and two topics in particular were great reading. The Common Diseases in Urban Wildlife covered topics such as Mange, Myopathy, Parasitic, Viral and Bacterial diseases of Birds, Mammals and Reptiles. The Interesting Cases was just that..... very interesting ! The website encourages interactions with other suitably qualified animal health professionals and while only in its fledgling stages I think it could become a very useful tool to assist in the diagnosis of difficult cases. Check it out.

What's On With Our Wildlife during July, August & September

- Male echidnas are searching out females. The females start making milk and developing their pouch. She then lays one soft shelled egg, which takes approx. 10 days to hatch. The puggle stays in the pouch for 45-55 days and suckles until it is 6 months old.
- **Koala young move onto Mum's back.**
- Rosellas start breeding.
- Brown Antechinus mate and shortly after the males die. The females are left to raise the young.



- Pee Wees start building their mud nests.
- **Pardalotes start burrowing to make their nests.**
- Kookaburras lay 2 eggs.
- Koels start returning home from Papua New Guinea and looking for a suitable nest to lay their eggs.

Ringtail possums have to change 'houses' if they had built their summer dray in a deciduous tree because they have no protection once the leaves have dropped.

Wild Bird Workshop Feedback by Ruth Bott.

GBWC Inc. hosted a Wild Bird Workshop on 9th May 2009 at the Amiens Environmental Centre. There was a good roll up of members and visitors all very interested in the 'Care, Treatment and Release of Wild Birds' that come in to our care. The information was presented in an enjoyable and interesting style by our workshop leader Lorraine McPhee of Toowoomba. Lorraine is a very experienced bird carer and handler and had a great variety of photos of bird species, feeding implements and foods. She explained to us the needs of birds that are hurt or injured including the housing, feeding, bandaging, medication and transporting of these animals. I'm sure we all took away from the workshop many helpful hints and useful information. Thanks to everyone who brought a plate of food for our shared lunch which was most impressive and delicious.

I'm certainly looking forward to a return visit.

A Vet's Success



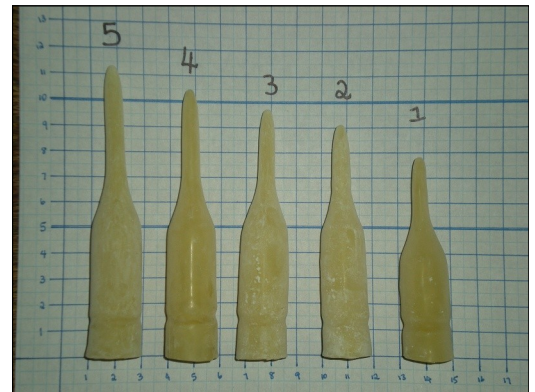
A young king parrot ran into a window at the home of Marian and Greg Grice at Cottonvale and in doing so he ruptured his crop. They took him into Stanthorpe Vet Care Services because the magpies were giving him grief. Upon examination it was discovered that the only injury was the hole in his crop and that otherwise he was a very healthy boy. Kirsten performed a first time operation to stitch the crop and was the operation was a huge success. The parrot was put into care with Janice at The Summit and was happily eating the next day. A week later the parrot was taken back to Cottonvale and released with his family members. A great success story and a big congratulations to Kirsten.

Sweet Teats

Many of our carers will be aware of the dramas we have had in the past with finding a good reliable source of teats for various animals. After a lot of research and shopping for moulds our dramas are over thanks to one of our members Pam Fawcett.

Pam has bought and trialled many different moulds and has mastered the art of teat making with ease. She is successfully making a wide variety of teats and selling them to the group.

The feedback from carers has been all positive. Well done Pam ! If any one is interested in making teats Pam is offering advice and assistance to those wanting to learn.



Members of Multiple Groups

One of the major points from our last meeting was the proposed ruling for members of GBWC Inc who want to become members of multiple groups.

The committee had discussed the situation if a member of GBWC Inc wanted to become a member of another wildlife caring group. Other wildlife groups offer training workshops, field days, other fundraising events and a network of like minded people who our members could learn from as well as foster the interaction between groups in the SE Qld region. There is no problem with members of GBWC Inc joining other wildlife caring groups for these purposes.

Likewise, there are members who continue to renew their own individual wildlife rehabilitation permit, and there is provision for the EPA to continue to issue wildlife rehabilitation permits to individuals. However, for individuals to take advantage of our subsidised milk, equipment, veterinary care and insurance arrangements that individual must be a member of GBWC Inc as well.

The Granite Belt has within it a wide range of habitats and the genetic diversity of the animals within those habitats has evolved to enable them to survive our climate, rainfall, aspect, altitude and other populations of competing or predatory animals. If animals foreign to

this area are introduced into these habitats, they displace our own local species, they may out-compete them for food and they may upset the natural balance currently in place.

Therefore, animals that come into care on the Granite Belt should be released on the Granite Belt and not taken out of their home range. Conversely, animals that come into care from another wildlife caring group outside the Granite Belt cannot come to the granite belt for release. The EPA code of practice is very definite about this. So to do the right thing by the animals, the resulting ruling is that any member who is an active carer under GBWC Inc, can become a member of another wildlife caring group, but only as a support or associate member. That way there is no temptation if they are offered animals from outside the Granite Belt, to bring them to the Granite Belt.

Exceptional circumstances like bushfires or an influx of animals that a particular group can't cope with, may result in our carers offering assistance to care for animals, but they will not be released here. This practice can continue, but this is always performed at the discretion of the president and under an arrangement between the presidents of both groups. In the case of individuals who hold rehabilitation licence, the licensee should, under these circumstances, always confer with the EPA. These rulings will result in an amendment to our membership rules which will be circulated to the group at a later date.

Rescued, In Care and Released

April and May were fairly uneventful as far as rescues go which was a lovely break for many. June however was a very different story and challenged many rescuers and carers in particular because Betty was away.

~ 'Rusty', 'Meg', 'Andre' and 'Laura' were all **red-necked wallabies** received by Ruth and placed with various carers. They were all victims of car hits in various locations.

~ Several birds including a **lorikeet, a frogmouth, a pigeon and a galah** were rescued by Ruth and had been either shot, hit by a car or run into window and subsequently died from their injuries.

~ 'Mandy' the **red-necked wallaby** is now in care with Pat after her mother was shot.

~ Ruth assessed and then relocated a **feather tail glider found** on the side of a road near Broadwater.

~ 'Stewart Little' the **eastern grey kangaroo** was passed on to Kathryn from a member of the public who had been caring for him.

~ Jo has received 10 **sugar gliders** from Brisbane over the past few months and still has five in care. The others were released back in the Brisbane area. There was a considerable difference in the size of these gliders and this has reinforced the concerns of releasing 'foreign' animals in this area.



~ Jo also rescued two **grey headed flying foxes** from barb-wired fences. Unfortunately they both died.



~ Gary and Pam rescued a **wallaroo** from Wyberba and it is now in care with Kathryn.

~ Gary and Pam also received a **king parrot, a currawong and a galah** from in town. None of the birds could fly. The king parrot and the currawong were euthanized at the vets and the galah died.

~ Janice received a **rosella and a king parrot**. Both had been attacked by a dog. The king parrot died and the rosella is in her care.

~ Pat received a **silver eyed bird** which was happily re-released after two days r'n'r at her place and a **red winged parrot** which was euthanized by the vet.

~ Pat and Denis also still have their little eastern grey angels 'Hope' and 'Molly' in care and going strong.



A bower at Betty 's place!

Did you know

The most notable characteristic of bowerbirds is their extraordinarily complex courtship and mating behaviour, where males build a **bower** to attract mates. There are two main types of bowers. One clade of bowerbirds build so-called maypole bowers that are constructed by placing sticks around a sapling, in some species these bowers have a hut-like roof. The other major bower building clade builds an avenue type bower made of two walls of vertically placed sticks. In and around the bower the male places a variety of brightly coloured objects he has collected. These objects — usually different among each species — may include hundreds of shells, leaves, flowers, feathers, stones, berries, and even discarded plastic items, coins, nails, rifle shells, or pieces of glass. The males spend hours arranging this collection. Bowders within a species share a general form but do show significant variation, and the collection of objects reflects the biases of males of each species and its ability to procure items from the habitat often stealing them from neighbouring bowers.

Information courtesy of Wikipedia

Plant Drive Success

The Native Plant Drive in conjunction with David and Sarah at Mole Station Native Nursery has proved to be a great success. Orders closed on June 30, 2009 and we had a total of 1086 plants ordered to the value of \$4344.00. Of this we hope to receive \$1954.80.

Don't forget plants can be collected from Jo's 201 Glenlyon Drive on Friday Sep 11th, 2009 between 1-3pm .



MONSTER MARKET

**Saturday 12th September 2009
Broadwater CWA Hall**



Plants

**Bric-a-Brac and
Household Items**

FOOD

**Heaps of Stalls
Inside and Out**



**Arts &
Crafts**



All interested Stall Holders should contact Cherie Taylor on 4683 2140 .

Yes it's Monster Market time again and Cherie is busy getting everything organized. If you have volunteered to help or are able to help further, please give Cherie a call. There are posters to be distributed and a few other jobs on the day. Remember, many hands make light work.

The Albino Brushtail Possum



These photos show just how easy it could be to mistake this possum for a cat.



Those of you at the last meeting would have heard the story of the albino brushtail possum found on the footpath just up from the Uniting Church. It was found beside a power pole and it is assumed that it was electrocuted. The body is in perfect condition and now in Sally's freezer. It was suggested at the last meeting by Sally and Jo that instead of sending the body to the Qld Museum that we keep it and have it taxidermied for use in our displays. It is well known to many that a family of albino brushtails live up near Mt Marley and it was felt that we need to raise more people's awareness of them so that they are not mistaken for cats. There are quite a few similarities. The body will be sent to Tasmania for taxidermy.

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.

Buy a Pin or Keyring and Help Raise Funds



One of our most recent fundraisers is the pins and keyrings purchased from Master Cast. Master Cast is a uniquely Australian company in Tasmania which wholesales their products for this purpose. Each product is very lifelike and has useful little pieces of information about each animal on the back. The pins and keyrings are currently on sale in Granite Belt Realty and will also be available for sale at the Monster Markets on 12th September at the Broadwater Hall.



Don't forget our Rescue Phone Number

0418 144 073

