



Wild About Wildlife !

January - March 2009

ECHIDNA FACTS



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- Echidna's scientific name is *Tachyglossus aculeatus* (spiny fast-tongue or Spiny anteater).
- Echidna's lifespan is over 45 years
- Echidnas grow up to 50cm (20") in length
- Their tongue is very long and sticky, perfect for the hundreds of termites and ants that make up their staple diet
- Each of the echidna's spines is formed from a single hair
- An echidna can lift objects twice its weight
- Echidnas drink water and can swim
- Like the male Platypus, the male echidna has spurs, but has no venom glands attached to them
- Echidna is slightly less intelligent than a cat
- Mating takes place Belly-to-belly, which avoids the male spiking himself on the female's spines



Echidnas are widely distributed throughout Australia and Tasmania. Although not commonly seen, they are not considered threatened. They live in a wide variety of habitats, from cold mountainous peaks to deserts. They're usually found in places with a good supply of ants and termites, where it lies on an ant-mound, sticks out its tongue and lets ants walk onto it. Echidnas have no teeth. It crushes its insect food between horny plates on its tongue and the roof of its mouth. They often fall prey to dogs and vehicles. An adult Echidna is very heavy and not easy to pick up. Use a very thick blanket or towel in both hands and start at the nose and gently pull your hands backwards on the echidna's sides. Remember they are very heavy and wiggle alot. Alternatively just cover them with the towel or blanket and contact an experienced rescuer.

GBWCI Committee

President:
Betty Balch

Ph: 0437 897 100

Vice President:
Ruth Bott
Ph: 46 833 319

Secretary:
Paula Boatfield
Ph: 46 833 119

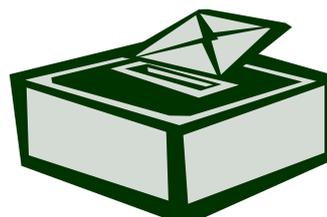
Treasurer:
Vicki Cavanagh
Ph: 46 810 575

New and Continuing Committee Members !

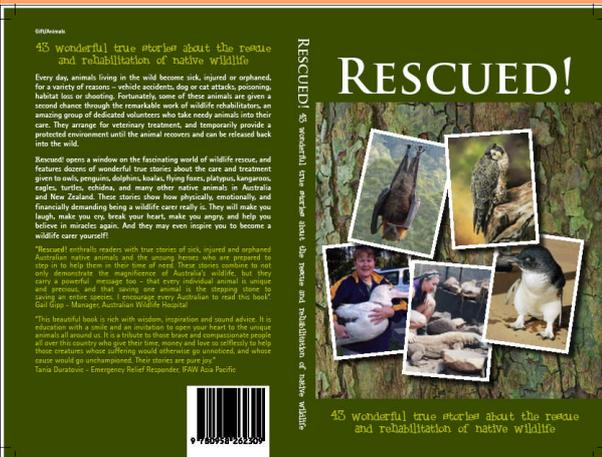
This year's AGM was held at the Discovery Centre at Amiens State Primary School on Sunday February 22, 2009. The main agenda of the meeting was to elect this year's committee members. Our existing president Betty Balch was unanimously re-elected,

as was Ruth Bott as Vice President and Paula Boatfield as Secretary. Carmen Niven stood down as Treasurer and after

several declined nominations and much persuasion Vicki Cavanagh was elected as our new Treasurer. We congratulate and welcome Vicki and the re-elected committee members to their positions and extend the offer of assistance whenever required.



Recognition for Wildlife Carers around Australia



Rescued! is the latest book title in a new wildlife series from Avocado Press, publishers of the bestselling range of Smarter than Jack animal books. The book is being produced specifically for fundraising purposes, to benefit individuals and organisations involved in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. **Rescued!** is the first book of its kind in describing and bringing attention to the unsung heroes of wild animal care – the wide range of wildlife rehabilitators throughout Australia and beyond who dedicate their lives to caring for wild animals who become orphaned, injured or sick. Many people don't realise how emotionally and financially draining this work can be, or that wildlife rehabilitators generally receive no government support.

"Rescued! enthral readers with true stories of sick, injured and orphaned Australian native animals and the unsung heroes who are prepared to step in to help them in their time of need. These stories combine to not only demonstrate the magnificence of Australia's wildlife but they carry a powerful message too – that every individual animal is unique and precious and that saving one animal is the stepping stone to saving an entire species. I encourage every Australian to read this book".

Gail Gipp, Manager – Australian Wildlife Hospital

This book is available NOW to purchase at a discounted price of \$14.95. \$5.00 from each sale will be a donation to the Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc. Contact Paula for further details on 4683 3119.

What's On With Our Wildlife during April, May & June

- **Glider young are put out of the family nest.**
- **Fruit bats mate now to give birth in spring.**
- **Bandicoot babies are out of the pouch.**
- **Brushtail possums give birth.**
- **Brown antechinus young move out of home**
- **Dingos mate**

- **Wombats mate and have last years babies at heel.**
- **Quolls give birth... the first 6 to attach to a nipple will survive.**

- **Channel billed cuckoos and dollarbirds all leave to go back to papua new guinea.**



From now until September, Koala males fight, bellow and scent their territory ready for mating in spring.



- **Honeyeater chicks are now starting to feed themselves.**
- **Red Wattle birds return to the area.**

- **Wedgetail eagle pairs perform pre-mating aerobatics.**
- **Butcher birds are busy feeding their hungry babies and getting them ready to leave home.**

In June road kill starts to become more common as the feed starts to dry off for winter. Check carcasses but only if it is safe to do so. Beware of your own safety as well as other motorists.

MONSTER SUCCESS

Our Monster Market on Saturday 28th March, 2009 at the Broadwater CWA hall was a huge success despite the threat of inclement weather, creating a bit of a slow start, by about 9am everything was in full swing and our volunteers on the day were kept hopping. Thank you to those repeat stall holders who continue to support this event and thank you too, to those new stall holders who joined us for the first time. A special thank you goes to those stall holders who couldn't make it on Saturday, but who still donated their \$10 stall fee to the group, to our untiring volunteers, and of course to the Stanthorpe and wider community. The plant stall was located under our newly purchased marquee (thank you to everyone who supplied plants). A big thank you also needs to go to all those members of the public who donated items to the group for them

to sell. Without this support, the event wouldn't be as popular as it is. The lucky door prize of a family meal voucher donated by Red Rooster was won by Teresa Clifford. We'd like to thank Red Rooster for continuing to support these events, and we'd also like to thank Lawrence Springborg's office for generously photocopying all of our fliers during a busy campaign, the Stanthorpe Depot of the Southern Downs Regional Council who lent us the bollards to mark out stalls, Owens Bakery who gave us loaves of bread for our lunches, the Broadwater CWA who let us use the hall on the Friday before the market, IGA who helped us with our groceries and the Metamorphosis House of Well Being who donated a \$60 voucher for us to raffle. Please continue to support those businesses/groups who support us.



Donations and Thanks

* Malcolm Balch is an avid dahlia grower and many unwanted blooms are discarded on a daily basis. Betty collected and bunched these blooms and sold them for \$2.00 a bunch at various outlets in town. She collected an amazing **\$500.00** for her efforts. It was agreed that this money be donated to the Southern Ash Wildlife Shelter in Victoria to aide in the rehabilitation of the bushfires' wildlife victims. **Well done Betty !**

* We gratefully received a **\$100 donation** from Mr Frank McFarlane along with numerous very generous donations from the public at the Monster Markets.

* A **huge thank you** must go to the untiring volunteers that donated their time and energy to the success of the Monster Markets. Without you it would not have happened.

* **Thanks** must also go to **Lorenzo's Café** for their continued support and distribution of Plant drive forms !



Native Plant Drive Fundraiser



Orders must be
in by June 30,
2009.

Order forms available from
Granite Belt Realty,
Lorenzo's, or you can con-
tact
Paula Boatfield
on **4683 3119**

Our latest fundraiser is a Native Plant Drive in conjunction with Mole Station Native Nursery. An extensive range is available to order and a percentage of the sales will be donated to GBWC Inc. Don't forget plants can be collected from 201 Glenlyon Drive on Fri Sep 11th, between 1-3pm .

Winter Wombat Whereabouts ?

Hi everyone...with the first frost arriving this morning it's time for our wild creatures to either head north, west or underground! Which of course means that our little wombie friends will be cleaning their burrows out soon, making it easy for us to survey! So who's keen to join the Girraween National Park Rangers for our 2009 wombat search? We had such a great group last year with a mix of the original WIGGERS and a few new, and we would love to see you all again this year...

So this year we will be holding the wombat search on the **23rd May**, starting 9am and finishing 5ish. We need groups of four and of course as much equipment as you can supply, such as 4WD's, GPS's, UHF radios, hammers and satellite phones. I need everybody who comes to fill in a registration form...(It covers everything this time)!

Again, we shall run it similar to how we did it last year, with all the safety procedures – such as signing in and out, and the group leader reporting to the main controller at a given time. I also need you to fill in the registration form. Hopefully it doesn't rain!

And of course we plan to organise something for the night activities, most definitely a bbq and maybe a visit to our local pub for some karaoke (depends on numbers!)... So be warned - it's cold! We will supply meat and some salads for the bbq, but if each group could also contribute something that would be lovely...could you just let me know whether it's salad or dessert? And if anybody is vegetarian....And don't forget the refreshments! We do have accommodation in the barracks and Ranger in Charge house. But it's first in best dressed so let me know asap



For further details contact:-

Jolene McLellan

Public Contact Ranger
Girraween National Park
Queensland Parks and Wildlife
Service.

Phone: 4684 5157

Or Email

jolene.mclellan@epa.qld.gov.au

A wombat baby remains in its mother's pouch for about 5 months before emerging. Even after it leaves the pouch, the young animal will frequently crawl back in to nurse or to escape danger.

By about 7 months of age, a young wombat can care for itself.

Barbed Wire Takes Its Toll On Our Wildlife

Meet 'Snarly Charley' the young koala rescued from Bradley Lane at Amiens. He was found hanging by his hand on a barbed wire fence. A visitor alerted Kathryn Gray (one of our newest GBWC members) to his dilemma and she wrapped a towel around him up onto the wire to suspend his weight off the hand. Betty then arrived and they cut the wire and got him down. Snarly Charley was then taken to Sally's for the process of removing the barbed wire from his hand. With a very sore shoulder and hand it was amazing how relatively calm he

stayed. Once the wire was removed from his hand the wound was filled with antibiotic ointment and bandaged for the night. He then went to the vet the next morning and had a tetanus shot, pain relief and was kept at Betty's place and given antibiotic injections for a few days after that. He was very happily released back to Bradley Lane about a week later. It is most likely that a large adult male booted him off his mother as part of his courting preparation for spring. Koala males have a 'territory' of females which they service each spring.



Our New Cages



GBWC GBWC Inc. recently applied for funding from the Qld Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund for the purchase of materials and equipment. As part of our grant application we outlined our need for suitable cages and aviaries for the care of possums, birds, bats and the like. We were lucky to spot these three cages at Eastside Trading and with the aide of the funds received from the Community Benefit Fund we were able to buy them flatpacked for \$250 each.



Member's Draw Winner

At the Monster Market, we were donated a voucher for a facial, massage or energy healing to the value of \$60 from the Metamorphosis House of Well Being. The group decided rather than offer it as a raffle, we would offer it as a prize in a member's draw at the meeting we had on Sunday. We are pleased to announce that the winner of the voucher was **Ruth Bott**, it couldn't have gone to a more deserving person. Ruth was very happy to have won the voucher and was looking forward to a bit of pampering. A huge thankyou to the Metamorphosis House of Well Being for their very kind donation.



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
45
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 on the front of this newsletter.

Rescues, Releases and In Care

- ~ 1 **bronze wing pidgeon** now recovered and released by Jan.
- ~ 1 **maggie** now better and released by Jan.
- ~ 1 **kookaburra** hit by car rescued by Gary.
- ~ 2 **wattlebirds** (1 cat attack) in care with Pam.
- ~ 1 **quoll** hit by car (doa).
- ~ 1 **grey kangaroo joey** (mum hit by car) now in care with Paula.
 - ~ 1 **Australian Grebe** now happily returned by Cherie to mum on the dam.
 - ~ 1 **common koel** now with Janice.
- ~ 1 **red rump parrot** (died due to head injuries).
- ~ 1 **eastern rosella** which ran into a window, rested and released by Paula.
- ~ 1 **bar shouldered dove** caught in chook pen, rested and released by Harley.
- ~ 1 **wallaroo** pinky from Amiens Rd, mum was hit by car (died).
 - ~ 1 **kookaburra** hit by car on Amiens Rd, residents in Post Office Lane picked him up off the road and took him to Ruth, Ruth took him to Kirsten but the break in his wing was too bad, he was put down.
 - ~ 1 **wallaroo** rescued by Betty, given to Ruth, who gave him to Pam, this was "Charlie".
 - ~ 1 **red neck wallaby** from Nundubbermere Rd, mum hit by car, wallaby died.
 - ~ 1 **eastern grey kangaroo** brought into Ruth and then handed over to Pat Press, this was "Hope".
 - ~ 1 **eastern grey kangaroo** brought into Ruth and then handed
- over to Pat Press, this was "Tommy" but he died.
- ~ 1 **maggie** who was caught in barbed wire rescued by Ruth.
- ~ 1 **tawny frogmouth** owl released after short rest at Pat's.
 - ~ 1 female **eastern grey kangaroo** rescued and given to Pat to care for. This is 'Molly'.
- ~ Twin **ringtail possum** pinkies who had got cold and died.
- ~ One ringtail at Sally's soon to be released

