



Achieving optimal outcomes for Australian wildlife

The Quarterly Newsletter of the New South Wales Wildlife Council Inc.
Volume One. Number Two. October 2006.

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FROM THE CHAIR

Firstly thank you to all members of the NWC whom I feel have done a wonderful job over the past 12 months.

To the Executive members who have given service along side me, thank you. I feel we were a great team and worked well together.

I would like to thank Minister Bob Debus and staff for their ongoing support to the NWC and also to the Department of Environment and Conservation. The Department has supplied the venue at their Hurstville office for all meetings of the NWC as well as providing phone conference link up to members who could not attend meetings in person. A wonderful help indeed.

As you can see from our exciting news in the newsletter we have managed to achieve one of the NWC major goals, something many of us have fought to gain for years, but through the hard work of NWC it has happened, funding of

NWC 'CLAIMS' INSURANCE VICTORY

After almost 12 months of investigation, negotiation and hard work the NWC has secured public liability and personal risk insurance policy for the over 4 000 wildlife carers who are affiliated with the New South Wales Wildlife Council.

Gaining a single insurance policy for all member groups and individuals holding a General Licence was set as a high priority at the initial meeting in October 2005, less than twelve months later this had been achieved and all affiliates will be covered by the new policy.

The New South Wales Department of Environment and Conservation will pay the premium on behalf of the groups who are members of the NWC..

Stan Wood, Vice Chair of the New South Wales Wildlife Council, has worked consistently with both the insurance company and DEC to secure this policy on our behalf and his efforts must be commended.

Thanks also to Mick O'Flynn, Manager Conservation Operations and Brendon Neilly, Senior Project Officer Wildlife Licensing, Department of Environment and Conservation for their assistance in securing this insurance policy.

insurances for wildlife carers throughout NSW. My special thanks to Stan Wood, Vice Chair who was the person who did the hard miles in activating the insurance funding.

Holding the position of Chair of the NWC for the past term has been both exciting and rewarding. I never dreamed we would have achieved so much in one year and I hope in the upcoming year the NWC will continue to be even more successful as the voice for NSW wildlife, carers and the conservation of wildlife habitat.

On closing a special thank you to Alan Rose who was a driving force behind the NWC. Sadly Alan had to resign from the NWC due to illness. He is missed greatly and we hope to see him well again very soon.

Keep on caring,
Audrey Koosmen.



"Those who wish to pet and baby wildlife love them, but those who respect their natures and wish to let them live their natural lives, love them more."

Edwin Way Teale

Editor's pouch.

Welcome to the New South Wales Wildlife Council newsletter Volume 1 Number 2.

The first newsletter has been on our website for sometime and we hope that people have taken the time to peruse and read it.

As we head to the end of our first 12 months as a council, representatives and member groups should be proud of what we have achieved in such a short time.

Please become involved in YOUR council and contribute to the newsletter. The newsletter is not just about what is achieved by those that represent members on the Council. It is also about the everyday miracles that wildlife carers manage to perform.

I am sure that, at times when tired or after losing an animal, the importance of what we, as wildlife carers do, becomes forgotten. Each member contributes to the improved welfare of orphaned and injured wildlife in New South Wales.

Feel free to forward our newsletter onto anyone whom you know may have an interest in our work, from colleagues to neighbours. Print-out a copy and leave it at your local vet clinic, or doctors. Give to a carer that does not have a computer and is unable to access the newsletter online.

Sandra Stewart : Editor.

STOP PRESS!

The Council is disappointed to learn of Bob Debus' announcement that he will be leaving NSW state politics next March.

Bob, in his capacity of Minister for the Environment, has demonstrated a lively and supportive interest in the Council's formation. He extended an invitation to the Executive to discuss with him issues of concern in June and pledged a seeding grant from his discretionary fund for the development of a statewide rehab. fauna database in August.

The Council will be maintaining close contact with Bob through the remaining month of his management of the environment portfolio.

Vote of Thanks

Outgoing NWC Executive and Group Representatives

Thanks needs to be given to the following people who represented their groups on the New South Wales Wildlife Council and to those who took on extra Executive and administrative roles.

FAWNA (*For Australian Wildlife Needing Aid*) **Melinda Fallson**

Friends of the Koala—Lorraine Vass (Secretary)

Individuals with a General Licence—Sandra Stewart (Treasurer, Education Officer, Newsletter)

Hunter Koala Preservation Society—Jill Taylor

Koalas In Care—Christeen McLeod/Barbara Witham

Koala Preservation Society of NSW—Cheyne Flanagan

LAOKO (*Looking After Our Kosciusko Orphans*) - Michelle Sherrott

NANA (*Native Animal Network Association*) - Kay Brady/Steve Amesbury

NATF (*Native Animal Trust Fund*) - Audrey Koosmen (Chair)

Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers—Julie Webb

Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers—Alan Rose

ORRCA (*Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans*) - Ronny Ling

RRANA (*Rescue & Rehabilitation of Australian Native Animals*) -Amanda Twomey

Sydney Wildlife—Sonja Elwood (Media Officer)

Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers—Ilona Roberts

Wildcare—Coralie Tarlinton

Wildlife Aid—Chris Neville/Chris Johnson

Wildlife ARC—Gwen Parry-Jones

Wildlife Carers Network—Joan Hills

WIRES (*Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service*) - Stan Wood (Vice Chair)

Minister Supports Wildlife Data Base Development



Minister for the Environment, Bob Debus, presenting a cheque for \$5,000 to assist development of a Statewide database for rehabilitators' records to Council Chair, Audrey Koosmen. Lorraine Vass, Secretary (left) and Sonja Elwood, Media Officer (right) look on.

See 'Council Guests' Page 6 for background information.



Under the Microscope - Research



Wallaby Milk Provides a Potential New Antibiotic



Photograph Source: Dept of Zoology
LaTrobe University.

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For forty years the Tammar Wallaby has been the main Macropod species used in research. It was originally used because it was easily captured, docile, tolerant to surgical procedures and bred well in captivity. It is currently being used in research at the Victorian Department of Primary Industries wallaby enclosure. (1)

Past research looked at providing better treatment for premature babies and discovering information about human bone development. The most recent discovery was found whilst trying to find ways to improve the protein levels in cows' milk. The discovery is a peptide in wallaby milk which is twice as effective as penicillin in fighting antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Peptide AGG01

As Macropod carers may be aware, wallabies are born with an underdeveloped immune system and cannot really produce their own antibodies until they are one hundred days old. Milk protein levels increase during lactation to suit the needs of the growing joey.

Researchers were looking for ways to select traits to produce cows' milk that was rich in proteins. Analysis of wallaby milk showed 30 immune factors, three of which were chosen for further testing.

The first tested was a peptide referred to as "AGG01".

"AGG01 demonstrated impressive activity against methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Streptococcus spp, E. coli, Salmonella, Pseudomonas ssp, bacillus subtilus, Proteus vulgaris and Candida." (2) (3)

Placental mammals such as humans have lost the gene for these peptides but they are most likely retained by all marsupials. The compound is a particularly exciting find as it not only stopped bacteria growing but killed them quickly.

***"You incubate a small amount with pathogenic bacteria in culture, and after half an hour you have wiped out 99 percent of the bacteria."* Dr Cocks said.** (4)

The anti-microbial peptide attacks the bacteria cell wall or membrane and punches holes into it. To become resistant the bacteria would have to change a lot of things about itself rather than just one. When placed with human cells the peptide is non-toxic and does not kill the human cell.

The good news for Tammar Wallabies is that the compound can be made synthetically. It is in fact, the synthetic compound that will be tested. If proven successful the compound will not be available for human use for at least six years. (5) (6)

Unfortunately, this research offers no help for macropod carers in the short term, other than perhaps an increased respect for the species. We asked researcher Dr Jane Whitley whether it might be possible to add the peptide into marsupial milk formula to boost the immune system of immature orphans in care. Dr Whitley said that at this stage, it would be too expensive to add these molecules to the formula. It would also be untested - ***"it's likely that there's a complex mixture of proteins and other molecules that are working collectively for protection."*** (7)



Photographs Source: Dr Lyn A. Hinds, CSIRO Entomology.



Photograph Source:
Museum Victoria ed-online
Australian Mammal Gould Print
Images
Photo from "Mammals of Australia"
Vol II Plate 29
www.museum.vic.gov.au/bioinformatics/mammals/images/Hal_der2

Contact the NWC

Contact details for the New South
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BUY, SWAP, SELL, FIND

We invite you to use our
newsletter as a place to buy, swap,
sell or give away wildlife related items.

Maybe you are finally 'retiring'
from wildlife care and have a collec-
tion of cages, pouches, aviaries, or
other wildlife rehabilitation equipment
that you have accumulated over the
years. Advertise here to help make the
task easier for both yourself and those
looking for goods. To advertise what
you wish to buy, swap, sell or find
contact the editor with the details.

NWC takes no responsibility
for the advertisements placed here
and all arrangements are to be made
between the advertiser and the indi-
vidual responding.

Closing Date for submissions for the next newsletter:

January 8th 2007.

Submissions may include
articles, photographs on wildlife
rehabilitation and habitat issues,
training notices, buy, swap, sell or
find ads, or other items likely to be
of interest to our members, partners
and supporters.

Email: editor@nwc.org.au

or mail:

The Editor

NWC Newsletter

NSW Wildlife Council

PO Box 324

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Member Profile Wildcare



Queanbeyan



Wildcare has been operating
since 1992. It started with a handful of mem-
bers and has grown over the years to our current total of around
260 members. We cover 20000 square kilometers from Bredbo
in the south to the Shoalhaven River in the east, up to Collector
in the North and across to Young in the west.

The majority of our members are centered around
Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Jerrabomberra but we do have
members in the furthest reaches of our region.

Of all the animals that come into our care the majority
would be Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Magpies and Honeyeaters.
In summer we are run off our feet with snake calls. Last year
we had over 100 Eastern Grey Kangaroo joeys come into care.

At the peak of summer we can do up to 12 snake calls a
week, covering the entire range of our district. This year we ran
our first snake handling course after setting up a Reptile Hand-
ling Team. The weekend was very successful with trainees
coming from other wildlife groups, rangers and new members.

Our members come from a variety of backgrounds and
careers; politicians right through to mums with children under
school age. In the past 12 months we have acquired grants to
help us with things like a rescue trailer, signage covering our
district and several new release sites. We have two patrons,
Jackie French and Macca, the well known radio entertainer.

Our members are encouraged to do training and we will
give accreditation for courses done outside of the group, provid-
ing they are a recognized wildlife caring group or appropriate
training course. We feel that we can only provide the best care
for our animals if we can learn as much about them as possible.
During 2006 we ran an Advanced Macropod Course with the
guest speaker being Gail Gipp from Australia Zoo.

We have just recently been given two tracts of land to
use as release and research sites. One was given by the Syd-
ney Water Catchment Authority and consists of approx
1000acres. The other is 200hectares just on the outskirts of
Queanbeyan near Jerrabomberra. Both of these areas will al-
low us to set up better release enclosures and do work on pro-
viding good habitat for our animals.

Wildcare will always works towards gaining greater public
and political recognition, along with education in as many areas
as possible, such as schools, other volunteer
groups, police, rangers and council members.

Wildcare continually looks to the future
and aims to contribute to a safe world for our
native wildlife to exist in.

Coralie Tarlinton



New South Wales Wildlife Council Inc.

St Valentine's Day Raffle

Tickets



The New South Wales Wildlife Council Inc. is raffling this 2.2 carat party sapphire ring (cut by Alan Rose) set in 9 carat gold with 2 small diamonds.

Valued at \$1,000. This magnificent ring has been donated by Alan and Carol Rose

members of Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers Inc.

The winning ticket will be drawn on St Valentine's Day Wednesday 14th February 2007.

Winners will be notified by telephone and the results will be published on our website

www.nwc.org.au.

The group that sells the winning ticket will also win a seller's prize of brand new computer scanner, donated by Brian & Jill Chetwynd of Armidale (NTWC)

To order books of tickets, email: secretary@nwc.org.au

Flying Fox Update.

A response to the NWC letter was received from the Assistant Secretary, Environment Assessment Branch; Department of Environment and Heritage dated 25th August 2006 this informed the Council that under the 'Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999' that the action to be taken was not a 'controlled action provided it is undertaken in a particular manner'

Some requirements were that tree removal was only to occur if no Flying Foxes were present at the site, 43 of the largest canopy Camphor Laurel were to remain (245 to be removed), an independent wildlife biologist must be on site during tree removal, tree removal must cease as soon as FF are seen on the site.

The conditions were adhered to and many of the trees taken were saplings. If a tree had four or five saplings coming out of the one base they were counted as four or five trees. Trees which were forming part of the corridor which links the present to where illegal removal was carried out three years ago were left.

Residents were informed that this was a one off operation and that no more trees would be removed.

The Grey-Headed Flying Fox Working Party composed a letter to David Fowler, Head Licensing Administration Officer; DEC expressing grave concerns about the issuing of licenses allowing the shooting of GHFF to orchardist and other parties. The NWC was able to present well-documented evidence to support this viewpoint and called for the prohibition of shooting of Grey-Headed Flying Foxes.

Nona Roberts, Gwen Seznec

Council Guests

Dan Lunney, Ian Shannon, Jessica Bryant

At the August meeting of the NWC a presentation was delivered by Dr Dan Lunney, Principal Research Scientist DEC and Vertebrate Ecology Team Leader, with Ian Shannon, Team Statistician and Jessica Bryant, Project Officer.

“Realising the potential of carer records to contribute to the conservation of wildlife in NSW— An ecologist’s perspective”

These speakers were as a result of the koala survey mentioned in the first newsletter. Groups were approached for their koala records, thus establishing the NWC as a contact point for gaining future records in relation to wildlife records and surveys. The NWC is keen to help groups establish consistent, standardized information so that wildlife carer records have a monetary value for groups as well as statistical information for Researchers which allow regional comparisons to be made.

The team felt that information with common codes for all groups to include: Species, Sex, Location found (description and spatially represented), Cause, Problems, Weight, Carrying young ?, Fate or Outcome (including release area) would provide minimum standardization of data.

Other information which would prove helpful could include: Animals killed but not recorded as they were not taken into care. Recording rescue and death sites by GPS. Photographs of a rescue site to help interpret any underlying causes.

Information received from this informative presentation will aid the NWC and assist member groups to develop standardized records that will have state-wide importance for researchers and scientists. These records will also be a source of funds for wildlife care groups to further expand their work.

NSW Wildlife Survey Team leader, Dr Dan Lunney (left) assisted by Ian Shannon, Statistician (centre) and Jessica Bryant, Project Officer (right) preparing to deliver the presentation at Council's August meeting.

