



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER



2013/2014

Dear all the Wildlife Warriors of NSW,

I would like to send your way my very best wishes and great "THANKS" for the wonderful work you all do out there in the wildlife community.

This year we have all worked so very and then came bushfires that affected many areas of NSW, one of the worst areas was Hunter Valley, Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie. I saw again how wonderful you all were you all coming together to help fellow wildlife groups that were effected.



The most exciting thing for NWC this year I feel was the launch of the Wildlife APP for NSW, we do hope this APP with help and assist fauna throughout state, of course this was made possible with the assistance of funding and expertise from IFAW whom have formed a working relationship with the NWC, thanks to IFAW whom have helped in this project.

Again NWC Wildlife Carers Grant has been able to assist some very hard working groups in their great work, something NWC wishes to always be able to do for you all.

On behalf of my fellow Committee I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2014 may you stay safe over silly season and God Bless you all.

Warm regards  
Audrey Koosmen  
Chair NWC

## Wildcare - Queanbeyan

As per usual we've had a very busy year, but our hearts go out to all the groups that have had to cope with horrendous fires this year. We had our own fires to deal with last January, but not a lot of animals came in. Our local fireies did a magnificent job of keeping the fires contained in horrendous conditions. We were very lucky to get a cold wind change from the south, which assisted tremendously. We really hope that all our groups have a very quiet summer this year!

Wildcare's wombat season began in April this year with the arrival of a small pinkie. He was only 185 grams and was found by a member of the public. He was very cold. It was discovered that he had a broken back leg and a broken front leg. He then developed pneumonia.

His carer, Lesley, didn't hold much hope for him but he was a fighter. With the help of Dr Howard Ralph, he pulled through. He is now 3 kilos and doing very well. His name is Champion. This is his photo.

We've also had a couple of funny ones with a reptile carer looking after a chicken for a few days before it got to a bird carer, and a platypus being caught in a 4 Wheel drive



engine after the vehicle went through a creek. Both animals came through their experience OK with the chicken finding a nice new home, and the platypus handed in to ACT rangers for release back where it came from.

**Our Christmas wish this year, on behalf of all the animals and carers, is a very quiet rescue call line. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.**

## Australian Seabird Rescue Far North Coast Branch

We've been busy as usual detangling pelicans from Yamba to the Tweed and responding to thousands of calls about the mutton birds! We're feeling very exhausted and looking forward to time with our families over Christmas. The sea turtles are beginning to strand in higher numbers as they do in spring and summer, and we're on the look-out for nesting tracks. A massive leatherback turtle washed up at Tallows Beach, Byron Bay in mid-November. This was the first sighting of this species in the area since 1993 and an exciting addition to Rochelle's research. Our satellite tracked hawksbill turtle is about two-thirds of the way to New Caledonia and still transmitting. Summer holiday tours of the sea turtle hospital, daily at 10am, begin early in the new year.

We'd also like to make a special tribute to one of our long-term volunteers Chris Waddington, ASRs rescue and membership records officer, who passed away peacefully at home with her family on November 17th. A beautiful lady who was converted when Lance dropped a pelican in her lap many years ago. Chris's husband kindly made modifications to our Sanctuary to allow wheelchair access so Chris could come and volunteer every Tuesday. One of Chris's fondest memories was this day on the beach (photo) when we got access to a specialised beach-wheelchair to get her down to the water to release a turtle. Rest in peace our lovely friend.



**We'd like to wish all the hard-working volunteers in our wildlife rehabilitation community a very peaceful and Merry Christmas. Our best wishes to you all and we look forward to working with you for our wildlife in 2014.**



## From FAWNA

FAWNA (NSW) Inc on the Mid North Coast sends Holiday Greetings to rehabilitators and supporters. From Bulahdelah up to the top of the Kempsey Shire our volunteers are extra busy with the influx of wildlife needing our help. September to January are the busiest months with so many of the wildlife species producing their young and coming into strife. The echidna pictured here came off the worse from a buffeting by a passing car but was successfully released after treatment for snout damage – it was a challenge collecting termites for his care. Fortunately being a male there wasn't a puggle left behind in a burrow to fend for itself. Our phone operators and volunteers will be on hand



We're really excited about the new IFAW/NWC Wildlife Rescue smart phone App that will help the travelling public identify the local wildlife rescue group and get quick help to injured wildlife in its local area. What a great initiative!



Hoping that 2014  
brings a greater  
understanding of the  
trials that face our  
wildlife from  
preventable human  
interactions - we send  
everyone our Happy  
Holiday wishes.

24/7, including Christmas Day, to deal with the many and varied wildlife and the reasons they come into care. One rehabber, Annette in South West Rocks for instance, has 23 wildlife orphans in her feeding and care roster right now, ranging from a Noisy Miner, Lorikeets, Rosellas and Tawny Frogmouth youngsters to a large duckling family, an antechinus and orphaned flying-foxes. So many of our carers take in multi-species without fear or favour – and we send them all our special thanks for their commitment and dedication throughout 2013.



## Wildlife In Need of Care

Wildlife in Need of Care (WINC) was licensed to operate in the Port Stephens, lower Dungog & lower Great Lakes LGA's in July this year.

An early wildlife encounter, that I always think of as "The Wallaby came casual", began with a rescuer racing out of the house to help a Wallaby that had probably been hit by a car & was hiding under a caravan. He wasn't easy to dislodge, but the problem was clear: he could hardly see through infected eyes & needed a Vet fast. A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do: the wallaby kicked through the usual material used for transporting, but was quickly secured, installed in the back of the Ute & arrived at the Vet's in record time. The Vet may never be the same again. The rescuer had used the only other thing he had handy, so the Wallaby was "dressed" in trackie pants. The rescuer remains silent about what he was wearing at the time. We don't have a photo available for obvious reasons. Antibiotics were the only thing needed to ensure the Wallaby has a great Christmas.

**WINC** hopes you have  
a great time too.



## Friends Of The Koala

Festive bellows and grunts from Friends of the Koala in the Northern Rivers. We do koalas from north of Iluka up to the Queensland border and out to the Great Divide.

Many of us are still recovering from championing the inaugural NSW Great Koala Count, which in the Northern Rivers attracted nearly one third of the participants and accounted for more than a third of the 954 koala sightings and 323 unsuccessful searches contributed over the Count's 11 days.

Our Koala Care Centre in East Lismore was at full capacity during Spring. Over the quarter we responded to nearly 300 calls. Twelve koalas were released back to the wild including four joeys hand-raised by home-carer Barb Dobner. Happily, the phone subsided for a couple of weeks but it's revving up again now. We hope for a quiet Holiday Season but realize it's unlikely.



A lot of Care Centre volunteers take a break at this time of year so we're especially grateful to the stalwarts who hold the fort. Those pesky submissions are piling up as well. Why is it that the most contentious re-zoning proposals, development applications and policy review documents always turn up on public exhibition just before the bureaucrats scoot off to enjoy their holidays? Koala conservation is a political roller-coaster. While we endure plenty of disappointments, we love what we do and remain optimistic.

**We wish all our NWC  
colleagues a joyful  
Christmas and successful  
caring in 2014.**

## KOALAS IN CARE INC

Koalas in Care Inc operates in the Greater Taree City, Gloucester & northern part of the Great Lakes LGAs on the Mid North Coast. We care for and rehabilitate koalas from pinkie stage through to the aged at our purpose-built facility and operate our Koala Rescue Service 24hrs/7days. Our annual intake of koalas has almost doubled over the past two breeding seasons and we would like to share with you one very special admission.

PETAL, a young female koala aged approximately 2.5yrs old, was admitted in a critical condition after being hit by a car mid-October. She suffered a fractured jaw, fractured forearm, head trauma, shock and was found on the road by a passing motorist. Little did we know that Petal had a secret and when the swelling of her head started to subside and she was able to open her eyes, she revealed two beautiful blue eyes. The only koala in our twenty years of koala care that we have seen with blue eyes. It was two weeks before Petal started to eat on her own and gradually she started to improve. She is now making a good recovery with both her jaw and forearm. She will remain in care until fully recovered and then she will be released back to the wild. She is just stunning with those blue eyes.

**KIC wishes everyone a Merry and safe Christmas. Be careful on the road if travelling and watch out for our furry ones.**



## Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers

The 20th Anniversary of The Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers was celebrated at Julia and Phillip Rose's place on 17th November. A small but enthusiastic number attended to see Julia and Phillip receive their Life Membership certificates presented by life and original members Carol and Alan Rose. There were of course many of our careers there Wallabies, Eastern Greys and Swamp Wallabies.

It was unfortunate that more of our members couldn't attend. We did have an enthusiastic new member who is doing a thesis on Micro-bats, she will be a valued member as she also wants to help with rescue. Good luck to four of our new members who did a snake handling course on the last weekend of November, they will be valued members this coming summer.

