



# NSW Wildlife Council Inc.

"Achieving optimal outcomes for Australian wildlife"

This NSW Wildlife Council Newsletter is for members of NSW wildlife groups who are members of the NWC. The NWC Committee thanks each of you for your ongoing dedication and support for wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and care within your communities. Please enjoy this newsletter and we hope you share your stories and news into the future.

## Welcome to the NSW Wildlife Council (NWC) Winter Newsletter

### *Wildlife*, sharing news and sector updates to its members.

Welcome to the NSW Wildlife Council Inc Newsletter. I wish to thank Leesa who kindly took up the role as our Newsletter Editor. We are very excited to have our Newsletter happening again as we wish to showcase great stories from our many valued member groups and share with you all issues regarding our wildlife in NSW.

Our NWC Newsletter we hope will give us another tool to use to network further with other groups and the community on all matters dealing with wildlife.

Happy reading everyone, please make sure you share our news with your groups. The Rehabilitator Survey

identified that a lot of individuals in member groups knew very little or nothing about the NWC and how it represented the wildlife rehabilitation sector. By sharing this Newsletter your members will gain a better understanding of the NWC.

We welcome contributions of news stories and interesting animal articles with our Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter is your opportunity to share with other groups in NSW what has been happening in your region.

With warmest regards,  
**Audrey Koosmen.**  
Chair  
NSW Wildlife Council Inc.

*'The wildlife and it's habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will...'*

~ Theodore Rossevelt



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New South Wales Wildlife Council

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#### IMPORTANT LINKS

[www.nwc.org.au](http://www.nwc.org.au)  
[www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

Meet Oracle on page 7.



# Wildlife news for all NSW wildlife volunteers

G'day volunteers and welcome to our 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the NWC newsletter, **Wildlife**, for 2019!

**Wildlife** is our newsletter, produced for all the NSW wildlife volunteer rescuers, rehabilitators and carers. It is our platform for sharing news within our sector, educating each other, sharing successes, raising challenges, offering solutions and showcasing memorable moments that happen each season.

The NWC Committee hope that you and your groups have fared well through the winter months and that the various bush fires across the state have had minimal impact on you and your communities. If yours was one that was hardest hit, we are thinking of you and yours at this very difficult time. Some regions have been lucky enough to have had rain as winter ended. Let's hope for more rain as spring settles in across NSW.

As this is our newsletter, the NWC Committee welcomes each wildlife group to share this newsletter with their groups. We would also encourage each group to email in any news, photos or stories they wish to share with the other groups around the state. All articles will be at the editor's discretion; however, it is important that we all offer something to share and maybe learn from, even if it is recycled from your own groups' newsletters.

Now for a shout out... Thank you to all our amazing Rescuers, Carers, Rehabilitators and Support Volunteer staff for all your dedication and commitment over the first part of 2019. We have all faced many challenges, be it environmental, financial, political or emotional. May the rest of 2019 be smoother sailing for all?

A shout out to the NWC Committee Team standing down, you have all worked tirelessly over the last year and we thank you very much for your commitment and determination to make a difference in our Wildlife Council. THANK YOU.

And, to the new NWC Committee Team, just voted in last month, we thank you for stepping up and offering to take the NWC into 2020. Your support and commitment to our sector will be greatly appreciated as we face unforeseen challenges in the coming months.

Excitingly the new NWC Committee has already been working away behind the scenes since the mid-August AGM. It has a few new faces who hope to bring some positive energy and actions as we move forward together. This is a great opportunity to strengthen our relationships with NPWS and across the whole sector. The new Committee hopes its members will continue to support each other as we face new challenges such as the new Accreditation process as a united sector.

Finally, it is only because of people like you, the valued volunteers, that we can offer NSW communities both big and small, the rescue and rehabilitation service for our native wildlife that we do. Your ongoing commitment and dedication along with the passionate caring you each provide is truly a blessing.

Now it's time to enjoy Spring as the season unfolds bringing with it new life and yes, new challenges; *but together we can achieve amazing things for the unique **Wildlife** of NSW!*

Cheers, Leesa (Ed)

## AGM 2019, a great gathering

A big **Thank you** to all our amazing NWC Committee Reps and Alts from around NSW for really getting involved in the peak body in 2019. For those who attended it, our AGM was one of the most productive in years. It was also a valuable networking opportunity for those from near and far.

As a take out, it was agreed that there will be more goals and initiatives planned in 2019/2020. Please lock our next General Meeting into your diaries to ensure you and your group are

part of the important journey the Committee plans to take moving forward.

Thank you to all who attended the AGM and for your continued and valued support.

*Photo provided by Margaret Woods,  
Sydney Wildlife*



## Welcome to the new Committee

NWC Management Committee and functional positions following the AGM Election

Thanks to those who came forward for election and re-election, and special thanks to Linda Stoev who leaves the committee. Linda, it has been great having you aboard and we appreciate your work and dedication to NWC and will welcome you to our meetings as the Rep for Wildlife Carers Network Central West.

**Thank you from us all.**

Welcome to Ros Irwin, Friends of the Koala, who joins NWC as a General Committee member, and Suzy Nethercott-Watson, Wildcare Queanbeyan, has swapped with Jacquie Maisey, NTWC and has taken on the Vice Chair.

Kerryn Parry-Jones, Wildlife ARC, has accepted the Education Officer role that has been vacant for a few years now, and Leesa Pratt, ORRCA, has put up her hand to take on the Newsletter Editor role.

**Thank you both for filling these vacant functional positions.**

### NWC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – CURRENT

[NWC - NSW Wildlife Council](#) > [About the NWC](#) > [NWC Management Committee – Current](#)

2019 -2020

#### Management Committee positions

Chair	Audrey Koosmen (Hunter Wildlife Rescue-NATF)
Vice Chair	Suzy Nethercott-Watson (Wildcare Queanbeyan)
Secretary	Meredith Ryan (FAWNA [NSW] Inc.)
Treasurer	Shirley Lack (Native Animal Rescue Group)
Media Officer	Sonja Elwood (Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife)
Ordinary Member	Jacquie Maisey (Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers)
Ordinary Member	Ros Irwin (Friends of the Koala)

#### Functional Positions

Public Officer	Meredith Ryan (FAWNA [NSW] Inc)
Webmaster	Rod Miller (FAWNA [NSW] Inc)
Fundraising Officer	Vacant
Education Officer	Kerryn Parry-Jones (Wildlife ARC)
Minutes Secretary	Meredith Ryan (FAWNA [NSW] Inc)
Insurance Officer	Meredith Ryan (FAWNA [NSW] Inc)
NCC Representative	Audrey Koosmen
Newsletter Editor	Leesa Pratt (ORRCA)



**Found injured wildlife in NSW?**  
**Download the Wildlife Rescue App**

Visit: [www.ifaw.org/au/projects/wildlife-rescue-australia](http://www.ifaw.org/au/projects/wildlife-rescue-australia)



## Grant news with our volunteer groups

NSW Wildlife Council is pleased to announce two of its member groups, FAWNA (NSW) on the mid North Coast, and Friends of the Koala in Lismore, were successful recipients of grant funding in the 2019 Australian Ethical community grants round announced on 5 September.

FAWNA's President, and NWC Secretary, Meredith Ryan said her volunteers were thrilled to see an organisation such as the Australian Ethical Foundation responding to the considerable needs of volunteers who work in wildlife rehabilitation. It is just fantastic that FAWNA will be able now to provide \$20,000 worth of better housing and thermal support for our wildlife charges but we will also be able to take some of the financial pressure off many of our volunteers in the

process of giving better care outcomes.

The \$20,000 Friends of the Koala (FOK) grant funding will provide regular Veterinary Surgeon presence in the triage, treatment and pathology clinic at the Lismore koala facility. President Dr. Ros Irwin was so pleased that "we will now be able to treat these injured, orphaned and sick koalas at our clinic and will not need to subject them to the stresses of transport to a wildlife hospital or local veterinary clinic for assessment and treatment".

To see all the 2019 grant winners and to learn more about Australian Ethical Foundation's work with community groups visit their page below.

<https://www.australianethical.com.au/community-grants/>



Photo provided by Sonja Elwood

## 2019 NWC Grant Winners

The NSW Wildlife Council Rehabilitator and Equipment Grants were recently announced at this years Annual General Meeting on Sunday 18 August.

The re-elected Chair, Audrey Koosmen said;

*"how pleased we are to be able to help volunteer wildlife rehabilitators in New South Wales through the Annual Grants Scheme again this year".*

*She added "there were fifteen quality grant applications received to be chosen from the total budget of a maximum of \$10,000. The applicants were not identified and a secret ballot was taken of members present at the Council's weekend meetings."*

## NSW Wildlife Council Rehabilitator and Equipment Grants

*\*All applicants have been informed of the Grants results.*

# The Winners and their Projects are...

### Chris Baker

Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers, Assistance towards construction materials of a 20x10x4 metre Bird of Prey aviary  
\$1,216



### Judith Fielsen

Hunter Wildlife Rescue, Materials for a 9x3x3 metre Bird Aviary  
\$1,989

### Diana Woodward & Geoff Roggenkamp

F.A.W.N.A. (NSW) Inc, Macropod Nursery pen fitout and upgrade  
\$2,000



### Lorita Clapson

WIRES Mid-South Coast Branch 6x9x1.5 metre wombat pre-release enclosure  
\$2,000



### Cheryl Cochran

Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers Intensive Care Unit for marsupial joeys, baby birds and juvenile flying-foxes  
\$1,075



### Jaimie Sealby

Wildlife ARC, Housing, lighting, heating & temperature control for reptiles and land turtles  
\$893



The total of the 2019-2020 NWC Grants awarded = **\$9,476**





## How is the NWC funded?

NWC is indebted to both NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Roads and Maritime Services for their ongoing annual funding of the NSW Wildlife Council. Their annual contributions ensure NWC can provide insurance cover for all groups and their volunteers, and continue the quarterly general

meetings of the representatives and alternates.

The NWC Rehabilitator Enclosure and Equipment Grants scheme is funded from this contribution. The Grants with a \$10,000 budget annually have proved a popular way of assisting individuals in their work with wildlife.

*Photo provided by Leesa Pratt*



## MOST UNWANTED



VEILED  
CHAMELEON



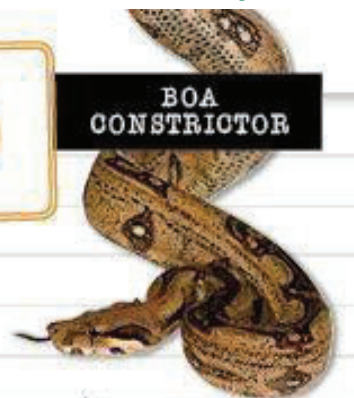
AFRICAN  
HEDGEHOG



ASIAN BLACK-  
SPINED TOAD



ASIAN HOUSE  
GECKO



BOA  
CONSTRICTOR

SEE IT. REPORT IT. 1800 680 244

If you see an unusual non-native pest animal, report it to NSW Department of Primary Industries.

# The rescues...

## Wedge-tailed Eagle Rescue - Oracle's Adventures

*Article provided by;*

*Rescuers – Lynleigh Greig and*

*Susan Parrish Smith*

*Sydney Wildlife*

Members of the public are known to exaggerate the size and species of an animal, so I've learnt not to get too excited when our office volunteers call me to rescue a '6ft brown snake' (which usually turns out to be a tiny golden crowned snake) or a 'baby crocodile in a bath-room' (a goanna in the bath-tub) so when I got called to an eagle in a backyard in Mona Vale, I tried not to get my hopes up...!

One of our other crack rescuers, Susan, happened to be at my place for the day (helping me play with pythons) so I had a built-in partner-in-crime from the start of the rescue.

We gathered up blankets, nets, a raptor-friendly container and some body armour and headed off in trepidation. As soon as the member of the public, Ian, showed us through the back-door and out to his small enclosed yard, our hearts leapt with joy - and terror - as there stood an enormous wedge-tailed eagle!

The eyes of the eagle looked straight through to our very souls. Susan, being a quick-thinking Texan, took the big zebra-print blanket and threw me the brown blanket and silently gestured that we surround and usher the large raptor into the corner of the property where there was a gabled roof. This would prevent the eagle from flying up and out of our grasp.





## Oracle's Adventures - *continued* -

Incredibly, our first attempt was successful, and we were able to secure those rather large talons and place our glorious new patient into a large plastic container for transportation. Pretty soon we were winging our way to the Taronga Wildlife Hospital where 'Oracle' was quickly admitted for veterinary assessment and intensive care.

For 3 weeks, Oracle remained in the expert care of the veterinary team at Taronga Wildlife Hospital where she was treated for puncture wounds to the chest and mouth.

It was a bit of a mystery as to how she sustained these wounds until Margaret was able to get some possible answers from her local birding group. One of the members had witnessed a mid-air fight between the local sea eagles and a wedge-tailed eagle.

It was assumed that she was still a young dispersing bird trying to establish herself in a hostile environment. The attack had grounded her and she'd found herself needing to accept food from anyone - including humans. As this behaviour is unacceptable for a bird of prey, the decision was made for Oracle's rehabilitation to continue with the legendary Peggy McDonald of Higher Ground Raptors in the Southern Highlands. Peggy told us that Oracle would need to "bird up" for quite some time before being returned to the wild.

Her ongoing veterinary care was taken over by the amazing Dr Charles Carter who performed

regular health checks which included blood tests. The 'birding up' process took almost 7 months. Oracle had to learn that humans are not a source of food and that she needed to hunt silently and stick with her own kind.

Peggy made sure to pair her and another youngster (Kuparu) with some adult eagles so that they could learn the ropes. Last Thursday Oracle and Kuparu were released into the wild! They wheeled and circled joyfully before turning and leaving. What a glorious sight!

We are so thankful for the input of so many knowledgeable and committed experts, without whom Oracle would never have made it.



**Photo Credits:** Backyard photo provided by Ian Smith; capture photo provided by Susan Parrish Smith; rehab photos provided by Peggy McDonald and release photo captured by Michael Vincent.



# Powerful Owl Rescue; Trapped in Castle Towers Mall

**Article provided by  
Sydney Wildlife rescuers –  
Lynleigh Greig, Deb Fleet, Jacqui  
Marlow, Margaret Woods, Bec  
Woods**

It's not what you would expect to see on a routine outing to the Mall. Shoppers were surprised to look up into the cavernous roof-space of Castle Towers and see two big yellow eyes staring down at them.

Centre Management staff and the head of mall security wasted no time in contacting Sydney Wildlife and we deployed one of our experienced rescuers, Deborah, to do a reconnaissance of the site of incarceration. Looking at the photos below, you can see that the rescue was certainly going to be a challenge!

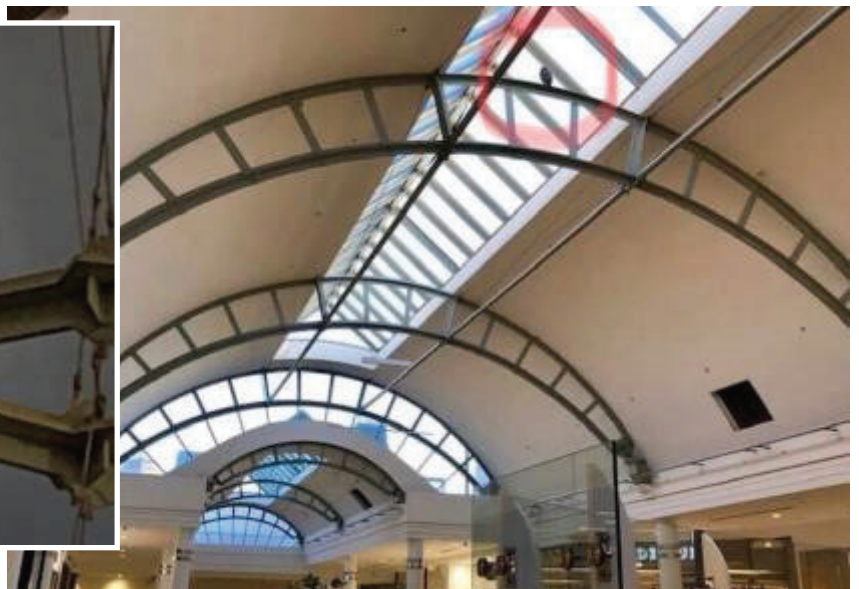
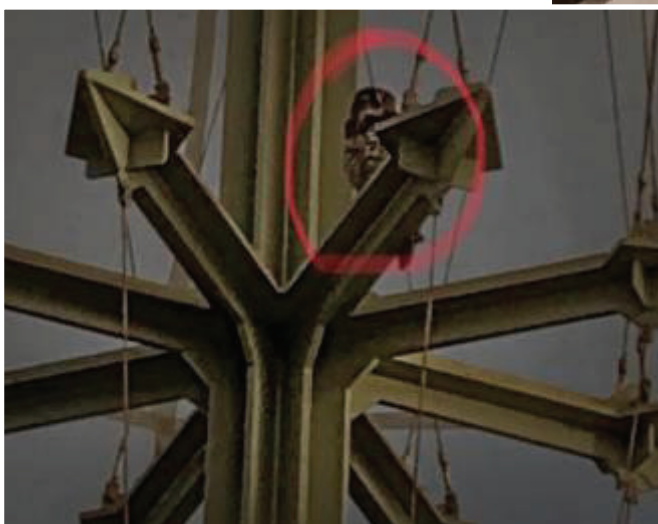
Deb contacted a few other expert raptor rescuers within Sydney Wildlife and they began to devise a plan. At 11pm on the Saturday night, the small group of intrepid rescuers set out - armed with nets, traps, lures and a sense of determination. With Jacqui leading the charge, the team was met at the Towers by the head of

security, Phil, and he escorted the team through the empty mall.

This is how the rescue unfolded, in the words of one of our rescuers...

"It was eerily quiet... Our footsteps echoed around the mega-structure as we followed the head of security. In that moment we all felt like we had entered a scene from Jurassic Park and we were waiting for the Velociraptors to swoop! An apex predator of a different kind lurked in the darkness above but our puny human eyes strained to locate it.

As we continued further into the mall, however, we began to sense his presence... Perched up high above us - on a decorative beam - was the majestic Powerful Owl. Galvanised by a sense of urgency to see this majestic animal free, we put our elaborate plan into action. Bec, Jacqui and Margaret set up the lures and traps whilst I set the speaker to play prey noises and then we hid.



## Trapped in Castle Towers Mall - *continued* -

Nothing!!!!

We could see that the owl was interested but intimidated by the activity of the cleaning staff. Then suddenly he took flight. The enormous wings of the bird opened up and, without a sound, soared across the open air of the mall and perched in another area of the overhead cavern. We hastily followed the owl up the escalators, whereupon a new plan needed to be devised.

We opened up the doors leading to the open-air roof parking, set up our lure in the doorway and reset the trap, but then he flew back over to the other side. egroupping one last time, we

turned out the lights and hid, this time playing back the call of a male Powerful Owl near the lure. He acted immediately. Flying straight over and glaring down at the lure. In a flurry of wings and talons he tackled the lure, and then sensed the open air and flew out through the doors. Freedom!

Our whole team was ecstatic. We had done it!!

After 2 hours of trying and failing he was free. As he sat perched above us staring down, we could almost feel his gratitude!"





# Carer news...

## A surprise find after a tragic road accident takes a mother

A few months ago, one special carer received a call from a member of the public advising that he had hit a wombat! Luckily this was a person, who had the common sense to check to unfortunate wombat's pouch. He advised our carer that his wife had collected two babies and wanted to know what to do next?

'The babies'?

Yes, there are two advised the caller!

To the carer's surprise, and maybe delight, this was a very rare situation indeed. With years of experience in the rehabilitation of wombats, having twins was almost unheard of!

And so, the journey of rescuing, caring and rehabilitation for these twin wombats started...

Below is a brief overview of how they are going;

1. How old were they when they came to be with you?

*A: they were 242 grams and 222 grams we don't age them we work on weight (maybe 4 months)*

2. What happened to the mother?

*A: The mum was killed by a car (same old story). The twins are a boy (Pride) and a girl (Joy)!*

3. How long they will be in care?

*A: These little ones will be in care for about 2 years or until they are over 20 Kilos*

4. What does your day look like while looking after these twins?

*A: As I only have these 2 babies feeding them every 4 hours is easy, try having 6 or 8 babies to feed, that's hard work!*

Any interesting observations and behaviours you wish to share... *A: They are nothing alike; Joy is smaller than Pride but is the stress head. Pride however is a real gentle booffy boy. They do seek each other out now and sleep in the same pouch together.*

Any photos to share?

*A: The photo when they are small was taken by the carer who rescued them (Ashley), the second photo was taken on the last Wednesday of August.*



# A scaly rescue takes shape!

**Article provided by  
Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers  
Inc**

A call came in late one afternoon to pick up a water dragon that had fallen into a water tank and was very emaciated. It seemed likely he had been stuck in the partially empty tank, possibly for months.

He was cold and unresponsive.

Soli, the Rescuer, rescued him and took him home to set him up for the night with a warm water bottle and space for him to move away if he felt too hot.

On the drive up to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital the next morning he started to perk up with the warmth and started to move around and finally opened his eyes.

The vet did blood tests and was surprised he had such a good reading and felt confident that he just needed lots of TLC. It would be a very long process back to good health as he only weighed 365gms at that stage.

Tiffany, our Carer, took him into

care and patiently crop fed him every day for the first few weeks, then stretched it out to every second and then third day as he gained weight.

After almost six months in care he was able to be released back to the area where he was found, now very bright and active and weighing 655gms. A very lucky dragon indeed.

Help save our threatened species  
Nearly 1000 native plants and animals are currently facing extinction in NSW. But it's not too late to do something and make a difference: join the movement to save our one-of-a-kind species.

If, like us, you want to help conserve our unique plants and animals for generations to come, there are a few ways to support us and be part of Saving our Species.

Please visit the follow link to find ways you and your community can help;  
[https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/help-save-our-threatened-species?](https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/help-save-our-threatened-species?utm_source=ausgeo&utm_medium=solu&utm_campaign=SoS_September)  
[utm\\_source=ausgeo&utm\\_medium=solu&utm\\_campaign=SoS\\_September](https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/help-save-our-threatened-species?utm_source=ausgeo&utm_medium=solu&utm_campaign=SoS_September)





# Patient update

## From our friends at Australian Seabird Rescue

Below you will meet one of our cormorant patients who was brought in heavily imprinted on humans in early August from Wategos Beach. It was a bit exhausted when he first came in however he is now in a great condition after a few good feeds.

This cormorant is a great flier, and full of beans so we tried to release him after 2 days of rehabilitation.

The release conditions were perfect that afternoon; however he decided not to go!

In fact, he also decided to just fly at other people nearby!

We don't know where this bird has been in his life but at the moment he is dependent on humans ☹️ this is common with birds that are fed in the wild and when they travel away from that area they have no knowledge on how to hunt on their own.

Hopefully this won't last long, and we can try again for another release soon.



# In the news...

## Hop off the press...! Yahoo news, August 2019

This kangaroo had to be rescued in the drought-affected area of Pembroke, NSW after it got its head stuck in a bucket!

Volunteers from FAWNA NSW INC, who freed the 'roo, think the two-litre container may have had water in it.

The kangaroo with a two litre water container stuck on its head, and the offending bucket, removed. Photos supplied

The drought is leading to some unusual rescue situations for wildlife rescuers as animals seek out food and water.

The rescue of a kangaroo with its head stuck in a bucket prompted rescue organisation FAWNA to remind people to properly dispose of rubbish.

In addition, FAWNA secretary, Andrew Ryan suggested that while the organisation does not advocate leaving feed out for wildlife, water in safe containers can only help our fauna battle these unusually dry conditions.

FAWNA rescuers we called to Pembroke, west of Port Macquarie on Sunday morning, August 25, to attempt to rescue the sub-adult male kangaroo.

Kangaroos can succumb to deadly capture myopathy, caused by the stress of capture and/or handling of wild animals, meaning it was important for the rescuers to find a quick rescue solution.

"The first option of corralling the roo against a fence didn't work," FAWNA president Meredith Ryan said.

"Plan B to quietly track and use a rope lasso and some positive but gentle force to restrain the animal while the container was removed worked a treat, and within minutes the roo happily leapt a fence and escaped from those 'scary humans'."

The FAWNA rescuers suggested the two litre water container might have had some water in it and the roo was able to get its head in, but not out again.

Anyone seeing wildlife needing help should call the 24 hours FAWNA rescue hotline on 6581 4141. FAWNA is the only licensed rescue organisation on the Mid North Coast, covering an area from Bulahdelah in the south to Kempsey, and west to Stroud and Gloucester.

Source: [https://www.manningrivertimes.com.au/story/6348371/fawna-rescues-kangaroo-with-bucket-stuck-on-head/?fbclid=IwAR2m0w5vwIVS-Ppx1NteBe-473z3vSIXFL8eHo5UnXIT29yXzFf7ecbgn\\_8](https://www.manningrivertimes.com.au/story/6348371/fawna-rescues-kangaroo-with-bucket-stuck-on-head/?fbclid=IwAR2m0w5vwIVS-Ppx1NteBe-473z3vSIXFL8eHo5UnXIT29yXzFf7ecbgn_8)





# Community winter event

## ORRCA Census Day 2019, wrap up

What a great day to be out at a favourite headland or on the water. June 30<sup>th</sup> for some is a time for crunching numbers, but this year, it was a wonderful day out for ORRCA members, their family and friends plus many coastal communities who now embrace this annual event in the name of whale watching.

It all kicked off at dawn, around 6.30am on a wintery June morning. As the sun revealed a new day, many of our supporters are rising early to spot the first blow or breach of the day. It is always a little competition the team coordinator says about the launch of the day.

Members text message the team regular updates throughout the day so we can create a running tally to share on our Facebook page and with the various media who follow our event. That first few moments in the morning are breathtaking as you can be woken up by the sudden BEEP BEEP of a text coming through, earlier than planned, from one keen member. It is usually from Port Macquarie where we have keen winter cliff dwellers who count the passing whales daily. From then, its game on!

This year we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> Census Day which is a massive milestone for ORRCA. We had members at **54** locations around Australia. In our early years, ORRCA had only a few locations members would gather to count the passing whales. Today we have members and supporters all around the country.

This year, we collectively spotted 2,749 whales which were up from last year's tally of 2,257.

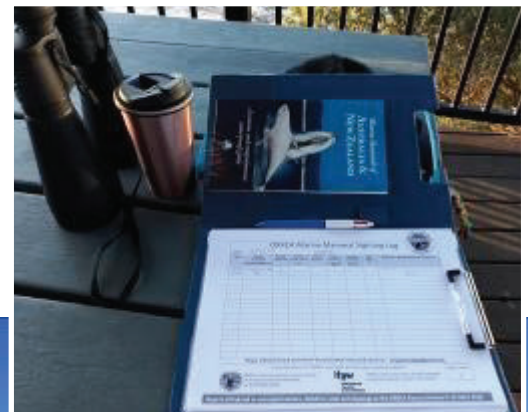
If you are interested in joining in on the next ORRCA Census Day, pencil in our 2020 Census Day which will be on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

You can follow us on Facebook for updates as it draws nearer.

**Total Whales: 2,749**  
Humpbacks: 2,743  
SRW: 5  
False Killer Whale: 1

Total Dolphins: 309  
Total Manta: 1  
Total Penguins: 4  
Total Seals: 1  
(we are sure there were more than this seen on the day!)  
Total Sea Eagles: 4  
Total Echidna: 1

*Photos provided by Leesa Pratt*



# Training news shared

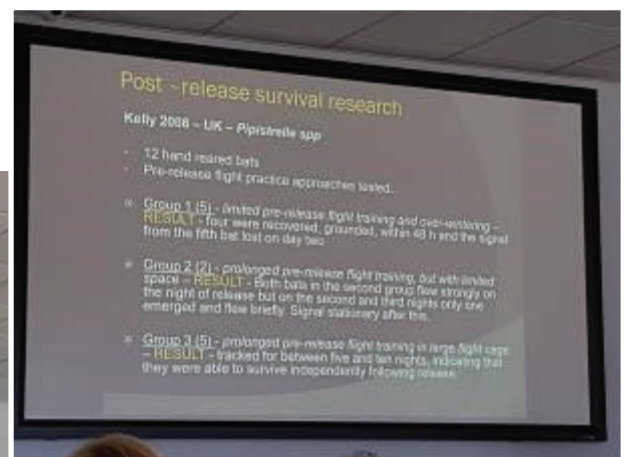
## Microbats – Mysterious and Misunderstood Mammals

### Report on a Training Day for Rehabilitators provided by Meredith Ryan, FAWNA (NSW) and NWC Secretary.

On the last day of Winter 2019, thirty rehabilitators, already dealing with microbat rehab, or aspiring to, joined together in Lismore for a Care and Rehabilitation of Microbats training day. The course, jointly organised by Northern Rivers WIRES and Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers was held at Southern Cross University and trainees represented Bat Conservation Rescue Queensland, FAWNA (NSW), Mid North Coast WIRES, Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, Northern Rivers WIRES, Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers, Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers and Wildlife Aid.

The presenter, Rachel Lyons, a convenor of the Facebook Australian Microbat Rehabilitation Forum and the co-author of the extensive document *Introduction to the Care and Rehabilitation of Microbats* prefaces the manual with “this guide is a work in progress ..... there is much to learn about the particulars of our native microbat species as we get better each year in our rehabilitation practices we will be continually updating this guide”.

“Please share your knowledge and learnings as we have, so that we can improve our collective understanding of microbat rehabilitation .... ”





# Training news shared

## Microbats - *Continued* -

The trainees were in awe of Rachel's knowledge of anatomy, physiology, behavioural traits, emotions and most critically microbats' fluid needs and the importance of facilities that enable strong flight practice prior to release. She shared her considerable experience with the multiple microbat species found in Southern Queensland, her home base. Rachel had an absolutely delightful presentation manner with an appealing little laugh as she passed on so much knowledge in the short time available. Her encouragement to do the very best for these highly evolved mammals was electric. The microbat species share embryonic diapause with some macropod families, they possess remarkable capacity to slow down or shut down to conserve their energy requirements and they are an important biodiversity asset through their role in insect control.

We would like to thank WIRES' Lib Ruytenberg for the major part of the course organisation, and Sandy Norris from NRWC for her Treasury work. The catering

included beautiful home-made cakes, biscuits and slices and a self-serve lunch allowed participants to network in the time available.

Thanks too to the caterers and other people behind the scenes who worked hard to make this such a successful training event.

Six FAWNA representatives attended at Lismore, and it was a great opportunity for them to have the opportunity to catch up with old friends in the microbat rehabilitation world, or to put faces to names.

Everyone left with renewed enthusiasm and hopefully determination to work towards ways and means to achieve better microbat rehabilitation flight facilities in strategic locations around NSW to ensure we are doing the very best we can for these wildlife patients.

*Photos supplied courtesy  
Sandy Norris NRWC.*



# Networking and problem sharing

## Wombat Mange Symposium

I was lucky enough to get support from some gorgeous individuals who helped out with my tiny native animal babies such that I could attend the recent Wombat Mange Symposium initiated by the Wombat Protection Society. Held in Queanbeyan NSW over the weekend of the 29 and 30 August 2019.

I was delighted to have a small speaking spot where I was able to on behalf of the NSW Wildlife Council applaud the leadership and hard work of the Wombat Protection Society in arranging the Symposium.

The two days were an amazingly rich opportunity to share time and thoughts with likeminded people trying to pursue treatments and action to reduce this horrible infliction for wombats. Its difficult to quantify the scale of the impact on the two out of three wombat species which are impacted by mange. The critically endangered Northern Hairy Nose has to date (touch wood) not had any reported cases of Mange but the Southern Hairy Nose and Bare Nose Wombats are not as fortunate.

As wildlife carers we are exposed to the suffering manged wombats endure and there is great concern about the widespread scale and welfare impacts of mange on wombats, and what this may mean for the species in the longer term. If you are reading this and are not aware of mange see <https://www.wombatprotection.org.au/mange-disease>

The speakers provided an insight into the multiple prongs of action needed to try to address the issue:

### **Community Education:**

A number of talks covered the community engagement which is occurring, to raise awareness of mange and the ways animals can be treated on site including by land owners. Passionate and heavily committed individuals across the state are investing much to raise the publics understanding of mange. Great talks by John Creighton of Bundanoon and the Hunter Valley Landcare Group offered insight into practical grassroots education and community mange kits which are making a difference.

### **Research:**

Associate Professor Julie Old is co-ordinating a number of research students in projects aimed at helping our understanding of mange. Julie also enthusiastically reminded the audience of Womsat - an app to record the sightings of wombats.

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## Wombat Mange Symposium - *continued* -

### **In Field Treatment of mange:**

There are many NSW Wildlife Council member groups who are very active in assisting manged wombats and co-ordinating in field treatment programs.

Considerable time was spent sharing information about the success of treatment of mange on wild wombats with various dosage amounts all of which is coming together in the application renewal for the use of Cydectin to treat mange

wombats. There was many examples of successfully treated wombats with mange which was great to hear.

### ***There is hope!***

A great weekend and congratulations to the Wombat Protection Society for organising the such an informative event.

Article and report provided by  
*Suzy Nethercott-Watson*  
*Wildlife Queanbeyan*  
*NWC Vice –Chair*



Photo credit: Wombat Protection Society website

# News from our supporters

## IFAW, 50 years of animals and people thriving together

In September, the NWC was invited to celebrate IFAW's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with CEO Azzedine Downes at a morning tea in Sydney.

Azzedine spoke about IFAW's history, starting in 1969 when a group of concerned citizens first witnessed newborn seal pups slaughtered on the ice floes on the East coast of Canada.

15 years later, IFAW secured a European ban on whitecoat seal products, saving over a million pups.

Since then IFAW has taken on a range of issues threatening species, including our own, all over the world. 50 years on, IFAW has a global presence with offices in 14 countries and projects in 40 and are rescuing more animals and saving more habitats than ever before.

At the heart of IFAW's mission is rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing animals, one by one into secure habitats and helping them flourish. Every animal matters, every animal is part of a species and every species depends on habitat for its survival.

And no more so than here in Australia. IFAW has a long history of working with NWC and was instrumental in its formation. We are proud to be partners and look forward to working together in the future to save our precious native wildlife.

*Photo supplied courtesy  
Leesa Pratt on behalf of  
Audrey Koosmen, NWC Chair.*

**ifaw**  
**International  
Fund for  
Animal Welfare**





# Volunteer updates...

## Are you across Q fever?

Q fever is a disease caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetii*. It is spread to humans from cattle, sheep and goats and a range of other domestic and wild animals. Even people who do not have contact with animals may be infected.

In the last few years, wildlife rehabilitators have been added to the list of occupations at risk of contracting Q Fever.

Q fever is a bacterial infection that can cause a severe flu-like

illness. For some people, Q fever can affect their health and ability to work for many years. The bacteria are spread from animals, mainly cattle, sheep and goats. Even people who do not have contact with animals may be infected. A safe and effective vaccine is available to protect people who are at risk. Screening is required to identify who can be vaccinated.

To understand more and to get a copy of the Fact Sheet, please visit [www.nwc.org.au](http://www.nwc.org.au)



## Dates for the Diary

### 2019

NWC round table meetings for Reps and Alts

Tuesday 19 November 2019 – 10 a.m. General meeting 54 – 43 Bridge St Hurstville NPWS

### 2020

Tuesday 18 February 2020 – 10 a.m. General Meeting 55 - The Centre Randwick

Tuesday 19 May 2020 – 10 a.m. General Meeting 56 – The Centre Randwick

Saturday 15 August 2020 - 10 a.m. General Meeting 57 – The Centre Randwick

Sunday 16 August 2020 – 9 a.m. Annual General Meeting 15 – The Centre Randwick

Tuesday 17 November 2020 – 10 a.m. General Meeting 58 – The Centre Randwick

### Conferences and Events 2019

World Whale Conference in Hervey Bay

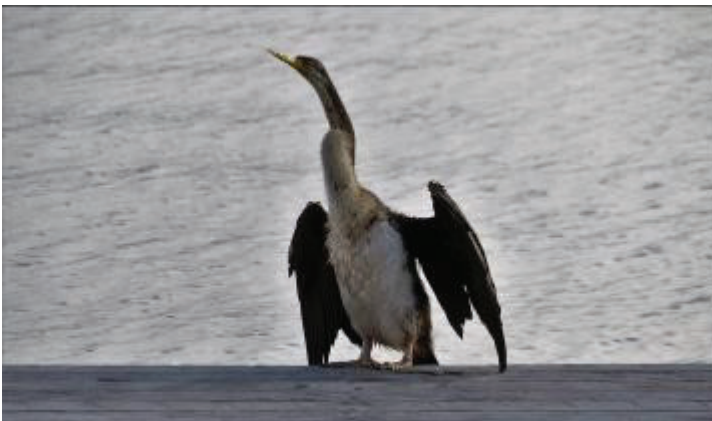
October 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>



Photo provided by Leesa Pratt

# Pin-ups from this season...

*"Achieving optimal outcomes for Australian wildlife"*



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Do you have news to share or a question to ask?

Do you have photos or success stories to share?

*Email the Committee at .... [secretary@nwc.org.au](mailto:secretary@nwc.org.au)*

***Got writers block...?***

Let our Editor know. She will help you through the blockage if you have news to share from your part of the state.