

NORTHERN TABLELANDS WILDLIFE CARERS

CHRIS BAKER - 2020

After completing a large pre-release flight aviary in the previous year, it became evident that a smaller 10 x 4 x 4M intermediate flight aviary was required due to being unable, with some species, to put multiple occupants together.

I was offered a grant from Woolworths and I began the concreting and steel frame build. I did not have enough funding to adequately clad the frame and so took some time to decide my best options.

After my successful Grant application to the NSW Wildlife Council I was able to purchase a top-of-the-range option of polypropylene mesh as well as some quality second hand steel corrugated cladding. This mesh is reinforced with stainless steel wire and will hold the most determined Wedge-tailed Eagle as well as smaller birds such as kookaburras and magpies and even parrots. I am currently housing a juvenile White-faced heron in the flight aviary.

The first occupant was a female Little Eagle, a threatened species, who had suffered a brain injury at 4 weeks out of the nest and had been successfully rehabilitated to the point where she was almost ready for release. She was able to establish her fitness enough to be released and was observed for a fortnight afterward around the area.

The flight aviary is a valuable asset for our work with birds, and especially raptors, I am indebted to the NWC for their generosity.



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