

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. Please enjoy this newsletter and we hope you share your stories and news into the future.

Welcome to *Wildlife*, the NSW Wildlife Councils (NWC) Newsletter.

This issue is the 2023 Summer wrap up, sharing news and sector updates.

G'day volunteers and welcome to our latest issue of the NWC newsletter, *Wildlife*!

Wildlife is our newsletter, produced for all the NSW wildlife rescuers, rehabilitators and carers as members of the NWC. It is our platform for sharing news within our sector, educating each other, sharing successes, offering solutions and support.

On reflection since our last newsletter, NSW has gone from severe drought, devastating and unprecedented bush fires, unimaginable floods, the challenge of a global pandemic and more floods... you couldn't have predicted this journey over the last few years!

Many of you have been affected by all of these events and our thoughts are with you. As a reminder, there are some support tools you can access within our sector so please refer to page 18 for more information. The NWC will also be offering its grants program from June so keep an eye on our socials for details.

On a positive note, here is a **BIG** shout out to brighten your day!

THANK YOU to all our amazing Rescuers, Carers, Rehabilitators and support volunteers for all your dedication and commitment. You have worked through many challenging events, rescuing species of all types, supporting your communities and saving many lives. This is sometimes a thankless job, but it is definitely worth it when you hear the success stories.

Recently, some of you attended the NWC AGM and planning meeting. That really showcased what can and has been possible!

It is only because of people like you, that we can offer 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.

*Together we can achieve amazing things for the unique *Wildlife* of NSW! Until next issue..*
Cheers, Leesa (Ed)

'The future of our wildlife is in our hands... and together we can make an important difference!'



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www.nwc.org.au

NSW Wildlife Council Chair's Report 2022

Friday 24th March 2023.

I would like to say firstly how wonderful it is we are finally meeting face to face after so long apart. I would also like to welcome everyone present and on zoom to the Hunter Region and do hope you enjoy your few days here with us. Hunter Wildlife Rescue is so pleased to be able to host these meeting over the next two days.

BIG WELCOME to any new members on the NWC thank you for coming on board.

I would like to take this time to thank Peter Stathis for giving his time up over the weekend to be our Returning Officer and also to lead our Planning session on Saturday. On behalf of NSW Wildlife Council and its member groups I wish to thank Peter for all his support he gave to the wildlife sector and the NWC while in the position he held at NSW NPWS. I strongly believe through his work he made such a difference in showing how the work we all do plays such an important role in all levels of conservation to the government and our work was brought to a much higher level of respect. Peter came along to all of the NWC meetings he could when we met in Sydney; sometimes at a weekend when he was not at work ... so again thank you Peter.

What a time it has been over past four years. I feel we have all had to work so hard and are still recovering from first drought then fires

then floods; all this indeed played a huge toll on our groups. Many of us were enormously overloaded with many more animals, but as we do, we all went in and tackled all that was thrown at us. Everyone should be proud of what we achieved; without us all where and what would happen to our NSW wildlife?

I do thank Wires for the support offered to groups across the country with grant funding. Their food grant has helped many groups to provide free food to their carers. As we all know food is one of the most expensive things we must meet in wildlife rehabilitation. I also thank IFAW for their ongoing support across NSW to the groups; they are always first to call wanting to help when a disaster strikes and in any event when they see animals need help.

I welcome Robert Leach from IFAW to our meetings and I know you will all get along with Robert very well. I have had the pleasure to have met him and worked alongside him in our Training here in the Hunter.

Our Wildlife Rehabilitation Equipment and Enclosure Grants were successful again this year seeing many groups and members helped out with equipment and enclosures they could not afford. NWC grant funding allows much better caring for animals through improved facilities.

*Attendees at the NWC planning session and AGM in February
Photo provided by A. Koosmen*



NSW Wildlife Council Chairs Report 2022

~ *Continued...*

It is great to see Code of Practice development continuing and we are nearly to the development of our last final two codes. It has been wonderful meeting so many knowledgeable members at these Code consultations. I do thank NPWS for listening to NWC when it was requested we get these codes developed way back in those very early NWC meetings. Again I strongly feel Peter's push behind getting these codes completed.

NWC has representation on the Bushfire and Emergency Response team; something I do hope will help the wildlife sector during emergencies. Some may be aware EPA will now be lead agency in all Emergency incidents in NSW that was for many years led by DPI.

I attended a meeting they called a Wildlife listen session in Sydney and a meet and greet with Coordinator from EPA. We were asked to tell what is working and what is not. I must say there was more of Not working than Working around the room. EPA made no promises but will work on how to improve the system to better assist the wildlife groups.

NWC 2021 Flood Relief

NWC supported members groups across the state with funding for those affected badly by these floods. On behalf of Hunter Wildlife I wish to thank NWC for the funding we received to repair our wombat pens and one flying-fox aviary that were badly damaged.

Our thanks go also to Wires and IFAW for their support during and after the floods.

We, as the council, have not been as active as we would have liked to be over the past few years but I feel the huge workload we have all been under has to be taken into consideration. I do hope we can move forward after our Planning session on Saturday but this will only happen with members coming forward and taking on roles to help. The Management Committee cannot do the bulk of the work nor should it be expected to. We all on the outgoing Committee have much to do in our own groups, so it would be wonderful to see members put their hands up to take on a role in Planning session, NWC needs to move forward as a strong voice for NSW wildlife.

I would like to close in thanking the outgoing NWC Management Committee, I give special thanks to Meredith Ryan who does the bulk of the NWC work keeping the operational matters running and also to Shirley Lack for her great book keeping and looking after our funds so well ... thank you ladies.

I thank you all for all great work everyone does. As I said before where or what would happen to NSW wildlife without us all? We all deserve to be proud of the work we all do and the positive results for our wildlife.

Warmest regards
Audrey Koosmen
Chair NWC



AGM 2022—postponed until February 2023

A big **Thank you** to all our amazing NWC Committee Reps and Alts from around NSW who attended the recent NWC AGM, General Meeting and planning session kindly facilitated by Peter Stathis, who has recently retired from NPWS.

The weekend meetings were well run with attendance from many member groups Reps and Alts. It was a very productive gathering, over 2 days which allowed the Committee to share updates in a constructive manner. It was also a valuable 'online' information sharing opportunity for those from near and far who couldn't be

there in person. For those who attended the 2 days via Zoom, we hope you got something positive out of the meetings as well.

Thank you to all Reps and Alts who were able to attend and for your continued and valued support. There will be a more comprehensive update coming via email soon.

Until then, and in the pipeline the NWC is planning our next gathering to take place in August, later in the year.

What: 2022 NWC AGM, General meeting & planning weekend
When: 24th - 25th February 2023
Where: Hunter Valley Wetlands

Save the date:

What: 2023 NWC AGM, General meeting and planning weekend
When: 25th - 26th August 2023
Where: TBC

How is the NWC funded?

NWC is indebted to both NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Transport for NSW 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 and from community donations. The NWC Grant Scheme has proven a popular way of assisting individuals and groups in their ongoing work with native wildlife.



NWC Grant news, and what is coming in 2023...

On the opening of the 2020-2021 wildlife rehabilitator grants program, NWC Chair, Audrey Koosmen announced an increase in the Grant ceiling to a grant budget of \$50,000. This grant budget was an increased by \$10,000.

Coming in 2023...

The budget has once again been agreed at \$50,000 the 2023-2024 wildlife rehabilitator grants program.

The grants program acknowledges the pivotal role played not only by wildlife rehabilitators but by their groups.

Any NWC group may be awarded a maximum of 2 individual member grants and 1 group grant; grant application amounts may be between \$500 and \$4000; independent general licensees may be awarded one grant.

The NSW Wildlife Council Rehabilitator and Equipment Grants program will open in June so please follow the NWC on its social media platforms to keep up to date.

The NWC President, Audrey Koosmen said;

"How pleased we are once again to be able to help more volunteer wildlife rehabilitators in New South Wales through the Annual Grants Scheme."

*She added "there were **22** quality grant applications received in 2022 program where the council offered a total budget of **\$54,936.00.** "*

From the NWC Grants Committee, congratulations to all past members who qualified for grants. We truly hope they have really helped to make a difference!



Our sectors annual report

Released: the NSW Wildlife Rehabilitation Annual Report 2020–21

This annual report is the collective story of the NSW wildlife rehabilitation sector.

PREFACE

Wildlife rehabilitation is the process of assisting injured, sick or orphaned native animals in such a way as to reduce their distress and optimise their chances of returning to live in their natural habitats. It is a daunting task involving the rescue of tens of thousands of animals each year, mostly by wildlife rehabilitation organisations and their dedicated volunteers. Without their efforts and those of veterinary professionals, many of these animals would not receive humane care or a second chance of survival.

Over the previous 12 months, and on the back of a devastating year of bushfire, drought and flood, volunteer numbers in New South Wales have grown enormously as has the number of animals rescued and released back to the wild. This year more than 150,000 animals were rescued involving more than 500 different species including 100 threatened species. It's the largest number of animal rescues ever reported by the sector.

We know this because wildlife rehabilitation organisations have told us. New South Wales is the only state that can accurately report on its wildlife rehabilitation outcomes. It's a credit to you because you ensure your volunteers keep records and report them to us each year. Keeping accurate records is essential to ensuring your hard work makes a difference to the conservation of each species rescued.

So, thank you to all the wildlife rehabilitation organisations who have submitted their data on time so we can

continue to tell government, industry and the community about the important work you all do. Finally, an enormous thank you to all the wildlife volunteers and veterinary professionals, members of the public, non-government groups and response agencies, and donors here and abroad who contributed to fundraising for wildlife rehabilitation. All of you, in the darkest hours, stood up to help our precious native wildlife.

You can download the full report with the following link:

[NSW Wildlife rehabilitation 2020-21 annual report](#)



Bushfire relief program for wildlife

A summary for the NWC members from NPWS & EPA

The NSW government through the Environmental Trust Grant invested \$1 million to deliver the Bushfire relief program for wildlife rehabilitators over the 2020/21 financial year. The program aimed to help wildlife rehabilitators recover from the catastrophic 2019-20 bushfires and prepare for future extreme events.

During this time:

- \$500,000 in grants were provided to volunteer wildlife rehabilitators to purchase large durable assets for use in the rescue, treatment and rehabilitation of animals injured in emergency situations and replace facilities that were damaged in the 2019/20 bushfires.
- The wildlife rehabilitation, veterinary, firefighting and emergency management sectors came together to develop tools and resources for wildlife response in bushfires, including trialing a Technical Advisor (wildlife) role for incident management teams and commence training for wildlife rehabilitators and vets who have expressed interest in participating in wildlife emergency response in bushfires.
- Environmental Trust Grant and Wildlife Heroes, Foundation for NPWS, have funded the Basic Bushfire Awareness as well as Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS) and first aid online training.
- A handbook for wildlife emergency response teams, "Wildlife First Response for NSW Firefighters" has been completed and being distributed to NPWS firefighters.
- An online course, Wildlife First Response for NSW Firefighters, is available for NSW Firefighters and continues to be completed by NSW Fire fighters from NPWS, Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire and Rescue. It is also being investigated by NSW SES officers and fire fighters in the ACT (with amendment to their legislation) .
- Twenty places on the Taronga wildlife care training for vets and vet nurses have been subsidised and filled.
- A seven week trial of a Televet service for wildlife has been completed and is currently being evaluated to determine future opportunities for such a service.
- NSW Government has invested further funding through the NSW Koala Strategy and Bushfire Inquiry until June 2024 to continue to develop and implement an improved framework for injured wildlife response.

Members of the NSW Wildlife Council have been instrumental in co-designing a number of the initiatives that have been implemented during the bushfire relief program for wildlife rehabilitators.

The NSW government welcomes further partnership with the NWC and other key stakeholders as the work continues in this important field.



This summary overview was provided by:
John Good Project Officer,
Biodiversity and Wildlife Unit,
Conservation Branch
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

A first of its kind!

An overview and update for the NWC members

Sydney Wildlife Rescue's Mobile Clinic

The idea for the Mobile Care Unit probably started brewing in Joan Reid's mind in about 2016, after setting up Sydney Wildlife Rescue's Rehabilitation Facility in Duffy's Forest. She couldn't help noticing that many of our local vet clinics were being inundated with injured wildlife and were treating these animals using all their own resources. It was obvious that many wanted to do more for their wild patients but were constrained by time and expenses.

Then - in 2017 - whilst we were assisting Wildcare rescuers in the fire grounds near Canberra, the need for a mobile facility became even more obvious. Rescuing fire-affected wildlife and then travelling huge distances to get them to a vet clinic (many of which were already overflowing with injured wildlife) was untenable and detrimental for the survivors of the catastrophe.

What we needed was to find a way to

unburden local vet clinics but also find a way to take that service "on-the-road" to areas struck by natural disasters. The idea of a Mobile Care Unit was born and - together with many other Sydney Wildlife Rescue volunteers - Joan and I embarked on a fundraising mission to raise \$200,000.

We held a multitude of fundraising events - everything from a High Tea in Bayview to a sophisticated Black Tie dinner in Manly. It took around 3 years to raise enough funds to purchase a brand new Jayco Motorhome and convert it from a recreational vehicle to a fully-operational veterinary-service-on-wheels. Not only did we convert the interior but we also gave the exterior a bit of a cosmetic lift by embellishing it with photographs of some of our wild patients!

We had planned to have a "Grand Opening" with ribbon-cutting, speeches, champagne and self-congratulations...! But the 2019/2020 Black Summer bushfires struck and we were deployed immediately to the South Coast fire grounds to assist one of our sister organisations (Wildlife Rescue South Coast) with fire-affected wildlife.



A first of its kind!

An overview and update for the NWC members

Sydney Wildlife Rescue's Mobile Clinic- *continued*

We ended up spending almost 3 months going to various fire-ravaged areas such as the Blue Mountains, the Snowy-Monaro region (Cooma, Cathcart etc) and the South Coast. We worked in conjunction with many other dedicated organisations to provide treatment to every type of species. It was literally a "Baptism by Fire" for the Mobile Care Unit.

The Service today

For nearly 3 years now, the Mobile Care Unit has been offering a free clinic every week to wildlife carers from any registered wildlife organisation. We have a team of 8 incredible vets who volunteer their time to assist patients of all species - from bats, bandicoots and gliders to wallabies, goan-

nas and venomous snakes. Our patients have varied from a 2g frog to an 80kg kangaroo! We are stationed in 3 different locations - outside Frenchs Forest Vet, Asquith vet and Narrabeen.

Sydney Wildlife's Mobile Care Unit boasts diagnostic services such as radiography, microscopy, blood analysis, faecal testing, ultrasound, laser treatment and much more. Our amazing volunteer veterinarians not only provide first-class treatment to their patients but they also give of their time to train vet students in their final year of study.

Story & image sourced from:

Lynleigh Greig and Joan Reid (the spear headers of the mobile clinic project).
Sydney Wildlife Rescue



The largest mobile wildlife hospital

An overview and update for the NWC members

Matilda, Australia's largest Mobile Wildlife Hospital has turned 2!

A team of leading wildlife veterinarians work in the Mobile Wildlife Hospital, collaborating with veterinarians, wildlife carers and communities to help save native animals.

This 22-wheel, 18-tonne facility is owned and operated by the not-for-profit Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital. The aim of this important rescue resource is to be respond quickly if called into action on the frontline to respond to wildlife in crisis.

On the road, the veterinary team behind the Wildlife Hospital will be providing advice and resources for general practice vets who want to increase their skills, knowledge and confidence in treating native animals.

"No one owns wildlife, but they are under threat, so we all have a collective role to play in helping to protect and save them from the onslaught of threats they face."

said Founder and CEO Dr Stephen Van Mil.

"Thanks to some extraordinary support, we have a million-dollar facility to bridge a significant gap in expert treatment, care, equipment and facilities to treat and rehabilitate injured and traumatised wildlife to recovery."

The veterinary team have also launched a Motorists Wildlife Rescue Kit with practical items and veterinary-endorsed usage guidelines for motorists to assist and transport injured wildlife to the nearest vet or wildlife rescue organisation where it's safe to do so.

The not-for-profit Wildlife Hospital is staffed by a full-time veterinary team led by wildlife expert veterinarian Dr Bree Talbot, and provides full-time veterinary treatment and rehabilitation for native animals, free of charge.

Story & image sourced from:
byronbaywildlifehospital.org



Photo source: <https://byronbaywildlifehospital.org/our-work#projects>

Disaster preparedness

Preparing wildlife rehabilitators and rescue groups for disasters

The impacts of the catastrophic Black Summer bushfires on wildlife rehabilitators and rescue groups has lasted well beyond when the last blazes were put out.

For many, it was an uncharted situation they were unprepared for.

During and after the fires, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) reached out to carers and wildlife groups and discovered one significant problem - many feared having to evacuate because they didn't have a plan for the animals in their care.

This meant that some were putting their own lives at risk as blazes came frighteningly close to their homes or places of work.

It was a dangerous situation for many wildlife rehabilitators. Some of them were inundated with injured animals and often with limited experience or tools to help them stay safe and evacuate if necessary.

We realised how vital and potentially life-saving it would be to create resources and conduct training sessions for wildlife carers to prepare for disasters. Through our close work with the wildlife sector in Australia for more than 30 years, we know how selfless they are with many putting their own lives at risk to save animals in their care. Recognising this, we knew it was essential they were given the knowledge and tools to ensure they don't become victims themselves during disasters.

"Human-induced impacts on the climate are causing extreme weather events to occur more frequently. The word 'unprecedented' is seemingly irrelevant as we face back-to-back extremes of weather patterns. For the sake of our own safety and the animals we're caring for, preparedness is key,"

Rob Leach, IFAW Oceania
Animal Rescue Program Officer.

This is why we are focusing our efforts in helping to empower the wildlife community with the tools and training to prepare for and respond to disasters.

One of these initiatives is IFAW's disaster tool-kit. The tool-kit will be an international online resource with guidelines and tools for animal carers and groups to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. It is designed in consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that guidelines are site, species, and culturally specific.

A key part of the tool-kit is an emergency evacuation workshop where we guide and equip wildlife groups and carers in creating their own evacuation plan. Having a plan is vital in helping to reduce panic, increase professionalism and avoid becoming a victim yourself. Most importantly it ensures that you can continue to not only take care of yourself and your loved ones but also the animals in your care.

We delivered one of these workshops at the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference (AWRC) back in August, 2021. As long-term sponsors of the AWRC, we're strong advocates for knowledge sharing and collaboration. Wildlife care is an ever-evolving industry and it's crucial that we learn from our shared experiences.



Disaster preparedness - *continued* -

The second key element of our disaster response work in Australia is our partnership with groups on the ground including Hunter Wildlife Rescue to deliver critical bushfire-specific training. These training sessions cover emergency preparedness, disaster planning and specialised first-aid treatment.

We delivered the first of these training sessions to our partners, Friends of the Koala near Lismore in New South Wales - an area not historically impacted by bushfires. The koala care centre was inundated with injured koalas during the 2019-20 bushfire season and at one stage had a record of 41 koalas in care.

During the one-day training, the Hunter Wildlife Rescue team shared their knowledge and expertise on how to prepare for a bushfire and how to conduct a "Blackwalk" search of the firegrounds to look for and rescue surviving wildlife.

IFAW also recognised that the need for resources and support across Australia's wildlife veterinary sector would only increase after the bushfires.

As a result, we boosted the veterinary capacity at Friends of the Koala. Each year, the koala care facility rescues more than 350 koalas which is more than a third of sick, injured and orphaned koalas rescued in New South Wales. Through IFAW's support, the team has now increased to four veterinary staff enabling them to operate as a 24/7 koala hospital.

We have also built capacity at Tasmania's only wildlife veterinary hospital at Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary through the funding of its essential veterinary staff seven days a week.

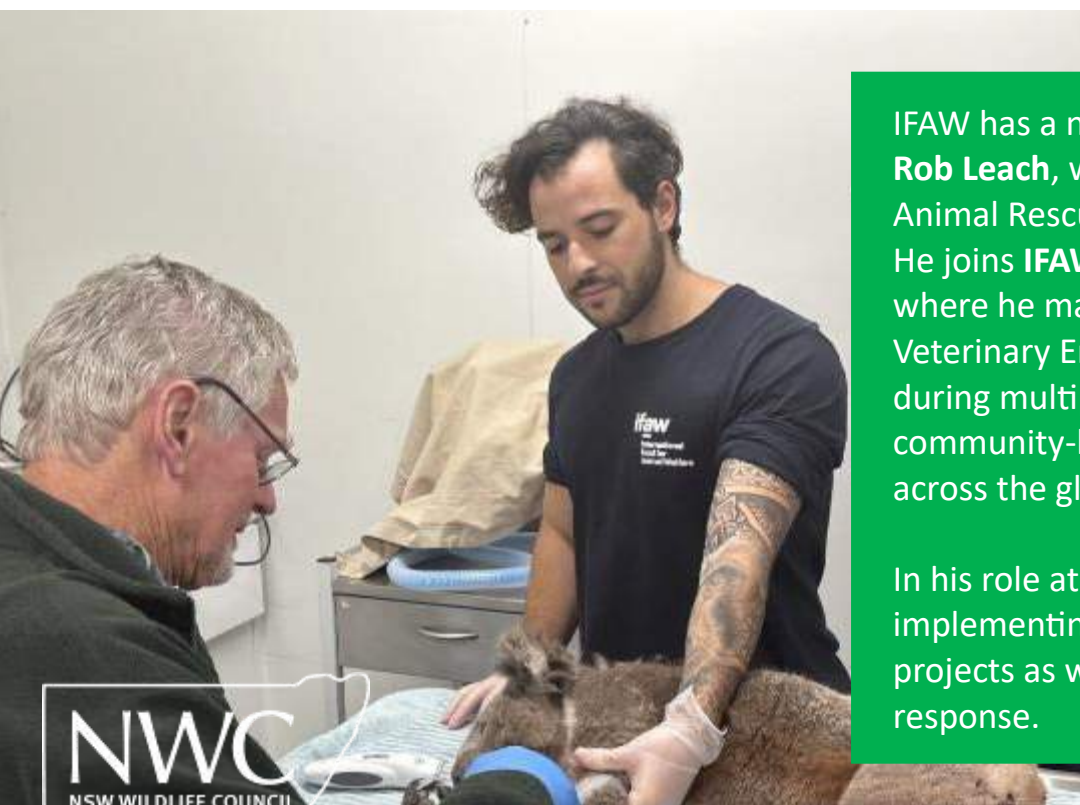
We have provided support to Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital to extend their veterinary capacity to cover weekends, a busy time for wildlife admissions. We are also supporting a part time vet at WA Wildlife.

IFAW's boosting of wildlife veterinary capacity helps provide onsite daily treatment while also playing a key role in delivering life-saving treatment to wildlife impacted during disasters.

IFAW is proud to be part of such an inspiring and dedicated community working to rescue, rehabilitate and release our incredible native wildlife and we look forward to continuing our support and working with you all in the future.

Thank you.

By the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)



IFAW has a new team member, **Rob Leach**, who joined in November as Animal Rescue Program Officer. He joins **IFAW** from Vets Beyond Borders where he managed the Australian Veterinary Emergency Response Team during multiple disaster events, and community-led veterinary programs across the globe.

In his role at **IFAW**, Rob will be implementing disaster preparedness projects as well as wildlife rescue and response.

Thank you to our supporter, IFAW

IFAW, animals and people thriving together

Across the years, the team at IFAW has been working tirelessly with groups within our sector and with various other volunteers in NSW in response to various natural disasters.

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.

They are one of the first groups to step up in a disaster. IFAW has taken on a range of projects to help rebuild facilities, rebuild habitat, support feeding programs and offering grants to those who need vet support,

specialised equipment and resources so they can better care for wildlife.

A FREE RESCUE APP FOR THE COMMUNITY & SECTOR

IFAW also supports the sector with hosting a **free Wildlife Rescue App**, reinforcing our long history of working together.

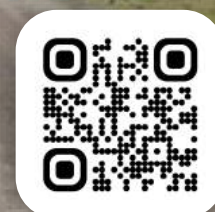
The NWC is very grateful of the kindness and generosity provided by the IFAW team. We are proud to be partners and we look forward to working together into the future, saving our precious native wildlife.

PLEASE SHARE THE IFAW APP FAR & WIDE.

ifaw
International
Fund for
Animal Welfare

Download the **IFAW Wildlife Rescue App** by using the link below or by scanning the QR code provided:

www.ifaw.org/IFAWApp



Download the IFAW Wildlife Rescue App by scanning the QR code here:



Wildlife volunteer news...

From the field!

A Rescue Story Shared from Sydney Wildlife.

One of our experienced rescue team, Georgie, was called to a peregrine falcon lying beside a pool-fence at a property in Belrose. It was presumed that the falcon had collided with the glass and injured its wing in the process.

The falcon was brought directly to the Mobile Care Unit where it was examined and x-rayed by our volunteer vets. Luckily there were no fractures but the falcon was treated

for soft tissue damage and an open lesion on the wing.

Cage rest was initially the best way to keep him from damaging the wing further. But as soon as he started to recover he was transferred to our flight aviary at Sydney Wildlife's Rehabilitation Facility. It didn't take long for him to be ready to fly again and he was released from the aviary after his short stint in rehab.

News article by:

Lynleigh Greig and carer is Georgie Bailey-Campbell



Wildlife volunteer news...

Syndrome Profile: Lorikeet paralysis syndrome NSW & Qld

Lorikeet paralysis syndrome is a seasonal syndrome which has been occurring in eastern Australia for a number of years.

This summer there has been a particularly high number of cases in northern NSW and southern Qld.

The syndrome primarily affects rainbow lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) but has also been reported in scaly-breasted lorikeets (*Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*).

Affected birds are unable to fly, with varying degrees of paralysis of the hindlimbs. In more severe cases the paralysis may affect the whole body and the bird may be unable to blink or

swallow, and have a significant change to the voice. Less severely affected birds may recover with supportive treatment.

Wildlife disease experts, including the Registry, have been investigating this syndrome and a wide range of tests have been done. The current investigation has found no evidence of an infectious disease as the cause of this syndrome. The possibility of an environmental or plant toxin is being investigated.

In NSW members of the public who see a sick lorikeet should call a licensed wildlife rehabilitation group or local veterinarian.

See the [NSW DPE](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/questions/injured-sick-animal) website for further advice. www.environment.nsw.gov.au/questions/injured-sick-animal



Wildlife 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



From the Dept. Planning & Environment

NPWS has published Initial Treatment and Care Guidelines for Rescued Echidnas, prepared by Dr Peggy Rismiller.

Peggy has worked with echidnas in the wild for over 30 years and has a wealth of experience and knowledge of this unique species.

Each year over 1000 echidnas on average are rescued by volunteer wildlife rehabilitators in NSW.

These guidelines provide detailed, best-practice advice on rescue, assessment and initial treatment of echidnas coming into care. It is a useful training resource and aligns with the Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna.

To understand more and to get a copy of the new guidelines go to environment.nsw.gov.au
[Initial treatment and care guidelines for rescued echidnas \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://environment.nsw.gov.au)



Wildlife volunteer training...

Advance training this month for Macropods

Calling all Macropod Rescuers and Macropod Carers

You are invited to the following event:

Advanced Macropod Course (Other Wildlife Organisations)

Event Details:

Advanced Macropod Course

This course is designed for members who are experienced in caring for macropods and who wish to increase their knowledge and abilities.

- This course will count as a refresher for experienced macropod carers.
- This course is not suitable for newly-trained or inexperienced macropod carers.

Cost: \$100 for the full day.

Please note that we are not able to refund your registration fee if you cancel or are unable to attend. The cost of the course covers the cost of the training provided by Dr. Ralph.

Date: Sunday the 28th of May.

Time: 9:30am (for a 10am start) to 4:30pm. Please do not register if you are unable to attend for the full day.

Venue: Lilyfield, Sydney. A map with directions will be made available when your registration has been processed.

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE ON SATURDAY THE 20th OF MAY.

The questions about your experience with caring for macropods in the registration form have been requested by Dr. Ralph and his team. Your responses will be helpful in formulating the course content and will be kept confidential.

If you have any questions, please email training@sydneywildlife.org.au Sydney Wildlife Training Committee.

TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE

[Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services - Advanced Macropod Course \(Other Wildlife Organisations\) \(wildapricot.org\)](http://wildapricot.org)



Dr. Howard Ralph

(BVSc (Hons), MBBS (Hons), MVS
(Wildlife Medicine), OAM)

will cover topics of interest to experienced macropod carers targeted at improving outcomes for the rehabilitation of macropods.

Wildlife volunteer support...

Do you need support?

WildTalk

Providing counselling, debriefing and training to Aust. wildlife folks via a network of counselling professionals.

Providing assistance to all rescuers, carers, veterinary professionals and researchers through times of illness, injury, or crisis that has an impact on mental health.

For more information, please visit WildTalk at wildtalk.org.au or email info@wildtalk.org.au
P: 1300 WILDTALK (1300 945 382)

If you need urgent assistance please call lifeline 13 14 11 or 000

TWO GREEN THREADS

Two Green Threads is on mission to inspire, support and rejuvenate the many individuals who invest so much of themselves helping native wildlife. We are here to remind them of their bravery in seeking to better this world, especially in those moments where frustration, grief, exhaustion or despair threaten to overwhelm. We do not want them to lose their belief and confidence that the work they are doing is right, valued and effective.

The foundation stone of our movement is simple... to build a supported and resilient tribe of individuals and wildlife groups...

For more information, please visit twogreenthreads.org



Dates for the Diary 2023

Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference, Perth WA
Friday 11 August to Sunday 13 August.

NSW NWC AGM and General Meeting, venue TBC
Saturday 26 August to Sunday 27 August.

Events 2023

Please refer to the NWC website and social pages for details.



Wildlife Pin-ups of the season...

"Achieving optimal outcomes for Australian wildlife"



Photo provided by Sonja Elwood

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