

Newsletter 56

January 2011

Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

P.O. Box 806 Cannonvale 4802 Hotline: 07 4947 3389— ABN 60 931 156 282

Unseasonal Weather

The dry season in the area this year has been anything but. It resulted in a 2 day old baby Curlew being rescued from a drain after a November downpour.



The human custodians of the land had been watching the progress of the Curlews nesting with interest and had curtailed gardening activities in the vicinity of the nest. Two eggs turned in to 2 chicks and the custodians were thrilled.

One morning after a downpour it was noted

that the Curlews were acting differently and a chick was calling. In the afternoon investigation revealed that one chick was caught in a sump after passing through a drain. It was rescued and the FRW Hotline was called.

Di took the chick into care, straight onto a warmed wheat bag. Once home she gently dried it and warmed it up. Its chances did not look good. After this she encouraged it to take some Vytrate and had several attempts at feeding. It looked much better so Di checked about access to the property the following day in case it came good and could be released. (cont next page.)

From the Editor: I suggested to the committee that we put out another issue of the Newsletter prior to Christmas - this is the result. It is a little late as several things, including Christmas and New Year got in my way. I hope you all had a good Christmas, enjoyed the New Years celebrations, and have a great New Year. As this is an extra newsletter it is missing some regular features. I hope you enjoy it anyway.

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Thank you:

JAN JARRATT'S OFFICE

printing of hard copies

Unseasonal Weather Cont.

In the middle of the night she checked on it again, finally it took some food. The 2 of them then collapsed together and had a little snooze. Surprisingly it was still alive in the morning and took more food. Big decision: Release or keep in care? We debated the pros and cons and decided to try and reunite it even though it still seemed a little lethargic.

Di took it back home, located the parents and released it. She says that the defensive display the parents put on when she approached was quite impressive. Then, she reckons, it looked like the parents had a discussion that included the 2 chicks and scrambled away. Unfortunately the little fellow couldn't follow due to some rocks so had to be recaptured and reunited yet again.

The chick may or may not survive the night. Beyond that there is little doubt that its chances of growing up into a viable adult bird are much better in the environment where it belongs – it's family group.

Note:

Today the scenario was repeated. A MOP bought in a small Curlew. We examined it, took it back, and finally we found the parents. The process of being reunited was just about the cutest thing we have ever seen. The defensive and maternal lessons the youngster learned could never have been taught by us!

A Word about our Sponsors/Supporters

Sponsors and supporters are very important to most organizations, ours is no exception. We try to acknowledge them at all possible opportunities including in this publication. I am sure that most sponsors choose to support organizations like ours without thought of promoting their business yet it would be nice to think that members also choose to support them. Give it some thought.

Unfortunately in Issue 55 we forgot to acknowledge a long time supporter of FRW. It was an oversight by several committee members, myself included. Deb Henshall from Airlie Paradise Printing prints our brochures at more than competitive rates, she has laminated posters for us at no charge and also printed flyers and signage for our Sausage Sizzles. Thanks Deb.

Also whilst I am eating humble pie, afternoon tea at the Pollock workshop was provided by Whitsunday Foodservice not Whitsunday Food Services. I apologized for this when I dropped round their copy of the Newsletter.

A big thanks to all our Sponsors and Supporters. See the *Noticeboard* page for the latest list.

Col

Col

Probus Presentation

FRW was invited to Speak to the Probus meeting held Mon 22/11/10. The call came through the Hotline and was handled by Barb McLennan. I was asked if I could do the talk with Barb Adamson as a backup.

There were about 30 members in attendance and the presentation was well received. I fielded a Q&A session at the end (as well as several during the presentation). Brochures were handed out to all present and 'the hat' was passed around collecting over \$60 in donations (to FRW). Several attendees expressed an interest in joining.

Thanks to Probus for the opportunity of presenting to their members.

Col

Loosing a VP.

Rebecca MacRae our Vice President has resigned. Below are edited versions of her resignation and the Presidents reply. All of the committee have also sent their thanks and best wishes to Bec.

Dear Fauna Rescue Committee Members,

It is with some regret that I inform you of my resignation from the following positions:

- Vice President
- Committee Member
- Rotary Raffle Coordinator
- Mail Collector and Logger
- > 10 Birthday Celebrations

My last day with FRW will be this Saturday the 18th of December for the Christmas Raffle.

My decision to resign has been a hard and lengthy decision to make but the good news is, that I have been offered a place at James Cook University in Townsville and as of the 20th January I will commence my Diploma of Health Science and providing my marks are high enough I will then commence my Bachelor of Veterinary Science in February 2012.

So, yes I am going, but when I come back I am hoping to contribute a whole lot more! Thank you for the wonderful time we have spent together and without joining this group I don't think I would have lived my dream!

Kind Regards,

Rebecca MacRae

Good Morning Rebecca,

Tis sad to lose you from the committee as you have played a vital role for a long time now, providing sound advice, decision making, help and support not only to myself but also to our organisation, fellow committee members & general members. We have been privileged to have you on board and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you.

However, I fully support your decision as know you are keen to complete the university studies, and having done Uni studies myself, know of the time involved.

I would like to wish you the best of luck and success in your endeavours and look forward to you coming back to us in a few years time as a Qualified "Wildlife" Veterinarian.

Kind Regards Jacqui

Opportunity to Join the Committee

The constitution allows the committee to appoint a replacement for Bec on the committee. If anyone is interested in joining the committee until the AGM please let the President or any committee member know.

If you want to know what it is like to be on the committee this is an opportunity to get a snapshot.

Col

Pets Paradise

Unfortunately Pets Paradise at Centro closed recently. Over the years they have offered FRW Members a discount, provided space for a FRW display, hosted a donation tin and donated a lot of surplus equipment and goods. On Behalf of FRW, the committee would like to thank Pets Paradise owners Marg & Kerry Edwards & the manager, Shelley Evans for their support over the years and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Christmas Raffle

The Christmas raffle is over for another year. It was drawn by outgoing VP Rebecca MaCrae with myself (Col F) supervising and Di Jessop as a witness. It was won by Sharron Flynn of Proserpine. The hamper went to Jayne Harries from Airlie who is a FRW member. Congratulations Sharron and Jayne. Both expressed their thanks.

The Christmas Raffle is a major fund raising event for this organization and it could not be run without the support of the community and the businesses, organizations, and individuals within that community.

This Years Sponsors:

Airlie Hotel, Brumbies, BWS, Coles, Deezire 2 Scrap, Epicure Homewares, Fausts IGA, Jubilee Tavern, Master Butchers Whitsunday, Metropole Liquor Barn, Plants Whitsunday, Proserpine Family Pharmacy, Reef Gateway, Whitsunday Hair Studio. Several members also sponsored the raffle. A big *THANKS* to all.

To the members that manned the stall, another big *THANKS*. It was great to see several new members getting involved.

For FRW it was a great result with over \$3,000 raised including donations, public awareness raised, and several new members signed up.



Note: We are still looking for a Fundraising Co-ordinator.

POSSUM AND GLIDER REPORT



November/December 2010

In care: 2 possums - Marie Frith, 5 possums - Barb Adamson, 2 possums - Miranda Martin. 1 glider waiting for release at Conrads.

Released 1 possum, 1 injured glider

Rescues 1 x 75gm pink

Lynne Clarke is leaving the area on the 9th February. She was the possum coordinator and a carer for quite some years. There is a farewell morning tea, Saturday 22nd Jan, 10.30 at my place, 7 Teague Tce Cannonvale. For more info give me a call.

Conrad and Crystal Wagemakers have a magic new release spot for possums and gliders. It is based around a FRW aviary – more in the next edition.

Barb Adamson Possum / Glider SLO

New Members:

are being processed as this goes to print!

A NMOW – New Memebers Orientation Workshop is being held on 14th Feb at 1pm at the Parks and Wildlife building Jubilee Pocket.

New members are required to attend if they wish to become carers. Existing members are encouraged to attend to meet the new members and as a refresher about how your organization operates.

Presidents Report December/January

Well I hope you all had a lovely Christmas & Happy New Year.

Our local wildlife influx seems to have remained fairly stable with not many animals in care opposed to previous seasons. Must be all the rain that is keeping the food supply up or maybe too much rain washing nests away?



The new flight aviary is getting a good workout with 4 birds in there at the moment, due for release soon. See pictures below.

I know we all have been getting a bit sick and tired of all the rain and mud, but spare a thought to all of our southern neighbours who are experiencing some of the worst flooding for a very long time. Whilst it is great to see all our dams full and rivers flowing, it is devastating to see the affect the floods have had on so many people. If you haven't already donated to the flood appeal and

wish to do so you can donate for the people at any major bank or Coles Supermarkets.

The RSPCA in Brisbane are co-ordinating disaster management for wildlife affected by the floods. If you wish to donate to the animals, RSPCA has their own flood appeal

https://donate.rspcaqld.org.au/flood This is something which Qld Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (QWRC) did following the problems after cyclone Larry up north. The Disaster Management now includes wildlife. Yes QWRC is also accepting funds for Wildlife flood relief. We have put out a call for any rehabber that is in need of assitance to contact their local QWRC rep or the QWRC Chair (Annie Saunders). For those of you in the Mackay/Whitsunday



region you can contact me as I am your local rep. We have been able to help getting supplies through to Rocky and are continuing to monitor all other



areas. There may be carers in Queensland who are not aware of the QWRC representing them. This is because QWRC have no way of knowing who they are or contacting them. QWRC have contacted the carer groups (that they are aware of) regarding the flood. If you know

of anyone who needs assistance with wildlife/damaged cages/food supplies etc due to flooding QWRC have access to the disaster management committee so please give us a call if you need assistance with any wildlife issues. If anyone does need help they contact



their local rep or Annie Saunders (QWRC Chair) on 4975 6281. To find your local QWRC rep check out the website www.qwrc.org.au.

Jac

Quolls

Thank you to Christine Petersen from Whitsunday Catchment Landcare for inviting FRW to a talk on the illusive nationally endangered Northern Quoll in Proserpine on 18th November. Because of unprecedented wet weather Tina Ball who was to address the meeting was unavailable, Barry Nolan stood in for her, showing Tina's Power Point presentation.

Tina, other staff from Department Environment & Resource Management (DERM) and volunteers have been doing surveys of quolls in the Mackay Highlands, namely Crediton (approximately 70 km west of Mackay), Gamma State Forests and Homevale and Eungella National Parks. Here one of the few remaining quoll populations in Australia live that don't appear to have been decimated by cane toads- despite them being present in the area. Quoll populations are declining due to habitat fragmentation, predation by foxes and cats and also from wildfire. Quolls are marsupials and are very short lived approx. 3 years, but males generally die post-mating. The program is looking at quoll survivorship from control low intensity burns as a method of wildfire prevention. Strong hot fires are a problem to these nocturnal animals as there is nothing left for them to hide nor rest in during the day. Habitat requirements include suitable den sites such as hollow logs, tree hollows. rock outcrops or caves. Individuals also require an abundance of food, such as birds and small mammals, and large areas of relatively intact vegetation through which to forage. Barry showed the mosaic effect of spot fires they are now doing to rid the areas of the build-up of combustible material which would support uncontrolled wildfires. The area known as Quoll Camp will not be burnt and will be the Originally eight quolls were control area. trapped and fitted with radio-collars. spoke of the tracking of these quolls, two of which had ceased to move. One collar was located in the belly of a black headed python, a natural predator, which was duly taken to a Mackay vet to have x-rays taken then an

operation to remove the expensive collar. The snake was released unharmed albeit with a few stitches. 10 quolls were fitted with identifiable microchips. 60% of the camera's positioned at Gamma photographed images of quolls. I found the camera survey techniques very interesting the volunteers set up numerous cameras with infrared capability. Daylight hours there were colour pictures and at night infrared. When the photos were analysed, a way of telling the quolls apart was necessary. They found recurring patterns in their spots identifying them in this way.

What is to happen in the future? Homevale completed a planned burn earlier this year. Cameras will be set to monitor if quolls are using the recently burnt area to den and forage. Due to high soil moisture from the recent rain, planned burns at Gamma and Crediton in December (further heavy rain may interfere with planned time of burn) Trap and microchip quolls at Crediton prior to, and after the burn. Continue to bait and monitor remote camera's several months post burn. Vegetation surveys prior to and post burn at all sites. Conduct surveys at other sites in the Mackay Highlands to detect quoll presence/ absence based on 10 year fire scar maps and historical quoll sightings using camera's set in areas with different fire histories.

Thank you to Tina and Barry for an entertaining evening and we would like to hear the results of future surveys.

Sandy C.



Snake Season

The weather has warming up and local snake catcher and FRW member Kylee Gray warns to be on the lookout for our scaly friends.

Snakes breed as the weather warms up they are on the lookout for mates and food. We usually start seeing baby snakes later in the year and early the following year, mainly in the wet season.

Try and deter snakes from your property keep your yard clear of clutter, rubbish and long grass. For example piles of wood and tin are perfect hiding spots for not only snakes, but also their food sources such as mice and rats.

Kylee advises that if you encounter a snake in your yard, leave it alone and most of the time it will move off on its own. When left alone, snakes pose little or no danger to people. The overwhelming majority of people bitten by snakes are either trying to kill or catch them.

Snakes are a protected species and it is illegal to kill them unnecessarily. Many people are happy to have snakes living on their property, as they help keep mice and rats under control.

Approximately 95% of the snakes Kylee is called out to catch are relatively harmless, such as tree snakes and pythons. Tree snakes are commonly mistaken for more dangerous species due to similar colouration.

Kylee is one of a handful of people locally who hold a permit from the Department of Environment and Resource Management for the removal and relocation of snakes. She can be contacted on 0424 456 254. In most cases a modest fee is charged for the service.



Fauna Rescues Market Stall

This will be a regular column in the newsletter. So if you have items of use to either give away or sell. Specifically related to Rescuing or Caring for wildlife. Please contact Lola Mudie (07)49461281 or melo@mackay.net.au. A sample of all these items will be available at all our meetings, workshops and get togethers.

Items For Sale

Husbandry & Rehabilitation of Marsupials Course notes by Anne Fowler - \$ 10.00

Possum Books" by Sonya Stanvic\$ 12.00

Rescued" Compiled by Jodie Blackney \$ 12.00 members \$ 20.00 nonmembers

Workshop notes by Dr. Jim Pollock Paper cd\$ 15.00

Reusable Heat Pads - \$ 20.00

Assorted FRW T Shirts - From \$12.00

<u>Items To give Away</u>

Disposable Cage Liners

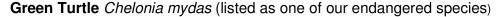
Small Mammal Pouches

Towels

Joey Stand

Pouches suitable for Joeys or possums

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A call came through via Barb McLennan that a turtle was on the mud flats at Cannonvale Beach. Barb rang me for advice and we both decided to go and see what we could do. I took a large strong Doona cover as something to carry it in as we were told it was a size we could pick up. After a bit of searching we found the lady who phoned and we set out onto the mud flats. It was way out at the low tide mark just slumped in the mud. It was very weak and made no attempt to move at all. Not a good sign. We examined him all over and found no external wounds. He was covered in barnacles all over: back, flippers underneath, face, everywhere. I wanted to see what would happen when we placed him in shallow water — nothing, so it was out of there and onto the cover which we used as a sling and between the 3 of us took him to shore.

Not knowing what their requirements were I bought a couple of 20 It containers which we filled with salt water to take home. Luckily he fit on the floor in the passenger side of my car on a blanket and sat quietly on the trip home. I decided the best place to put him was in my bath. So in he went with a bit of water under his backend but not up to his head. I was worried he was to ill and may drown.

I phoned Sea world and got advice from them. Which was to empty the bath because of the risk of drowning and so he wouldn't get cold and place dry towels under him (they use mattresses) and cover him with another dry towel leaving his head out. Then I phoned the marine mammal stranding hotline 1300 130 372 a very handy number to have and I was diverted through to the on call officer from The Department of Environment. I explained the situation and she said she would call me back, which she did in about 15 minutes. She wanted some measurements which I took with the help of Jacqui, 50cm carapace (shell)from head to tail and also the measurement across plus the tail. She had arranged for a vet to see him (it was Sunday)and 10 minutes later we were there.

Dr Pete Mansfield the locum vet from Orchid Valley Surgery was very knowledgeable and had dealt with turtles in the past. He could see at a glance it was a very sick turtle. It was underweight which he could see from the concave shell underneath and it made no attempt to move still unless it was picked up then it flapped its flippers like mad. The barnacles he explained were like the fleas on a dog or lice on a wallaby. When the animal was sick they multiply to larger and larger numbers and eventually become a problem in themselves. He had large ones around his mouth which restricted his ability to reach food as they extended past the length of his beak and the ones on his back would affect his streamlined body as he swam making it more of an effort. There were hundreds of tiny baby ones everywhere as well. Eyes were good and he showed no sign of other diseases he had come across in the past.

He stayed at the vets to receive the best treatment possible. It consisted of antibiotic and Vitamin injections, xrays, a look down the throat and also fluids. Unfortunately xrays don't show up plastic bags so there was a possibility that he had swallowed one thinking it was a jellyfish. So it was quiet and rest and fingers crossed. Next day there was no improvement but the day after the turtle moved and changed position a few times. So slight improvement

7 days later, The Department of Environment decided there was enough improvement to see what would happen if he was put in the shallow water at the beach. So turtle with barnacles removed was put in the waters edge and apparently took off like a rocket.

We still have no idea what was wrong, but rest and treatment seemed to do the trick Linden Baker

FRW Noticeboard

Upcoming dates of interest:

22nd Jan at 10.30 – Farewell for Lynne Clarke. Saturday morning at Barb(and Rick!) Adamsons 7 Teague Tce Cannonvale. Call Barb for more details.

14th Feb at 1pm - A NMOW / New Members Orientation Workshop is being held at the Parks and Wildlife building Jubilee Pocket.

Positions Vacant:

- ➤ Hotline Co-Ordinator
- Hotline Operators
- Bat Species Liason Officer
- Newsletter Editor
- Fundraising and Events Co-Ordinator
- Grants Co-Ordinator
- > 10th Anniversary event Co-Ordinator

The Recent Past:

Probus Presentation – See article Christmas Raffle – See article Quoll Presentation WCL – See article

Other Stuff:

The PPM (Policies and Procedures Manual) is due for review. All comments to the committee please.

Sponsors mentioned in this Newsletter:

Airlie Paradise Printing Whitsunday Foodservice
Airlie Hotel Brumbies BWS Coles
Deezire 2 Scrap Epicure Homewares Fausts IGA
Jubilee Tavern Master Butchers Whitsunday
Metropole Liquor Barn Plants Whitsunday
Proserpine Family Pharmacy Reef Gateway
Whitsunday Hair Studio

'Support those who have supported us'

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Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

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NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS SPECIES LIAISON OFFICERS

<u>Koalas/Birds/Raptor/Echidna/Hotline</u> Co ordinator

<u>Jacqui Webb</u>

4947 3308 0427 176 966 Email: jacqui.webb@bigpond.com

Food Supplies Small Mammal
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4958 5661 0419 743801 Email: royle.wendy@bigpond.com

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Bats Vacant

Possums/Gliders:

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FRW Facebook

http://www.facebook.com/pages/ FAUNA-RESCUE-WHITSUNDAYS ASSOCIATION-INC/187303798354

FRW Website - www.frw.org.au

FRW Animal Records

Collinsville

http://www.frw.org.au/AnimalRecords/AnimalRecords.php

QPWS Jubilee Pocket 4967 7355

DERM/EPA HOTLINE 1300 130372 **INCLUDES MARINE STRANDINGS**

POLICE

Whitsunday 4948 8888 (24hrs)
Proserpine 4945 1333
Bowen 4761 3500

WHITSUNDAY SHIRE COUNCIL

4945 0200

ALL SNAKES

Peter Basso (fee charged) 0439 478140

Kylee Gray (fee charged) 0424 456254

POSSUM & SWOOPING BIRD RELOCATION

Peter Basso (fee charged) 0439 478140

VETERINARY SURGERIES

Whitsunday Vet Clinic Julie Ruddell 29 Sugarloaf Rd CannonValley 49461028

Orchid Valley Vet Surgery Mark Williams Cnr Shute Hbr Rd & Orchid Valley Rd Cannonvale

Proserpine Veterinary Surgery

49 461631

Bill Bowman Fay Elder 11 Waite St Proserpine 4945 1878

Bowen Veterinary Clinic 156 Richmond Road Bowen 4786 4864

Brolgas Rest Vet Clinic 36 Don Street Bowen 4786 3166

RSPCA Mackay 4953 4265

4785 5377

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Advantages of Newsletter by email:

Colour pictures!

Saves the environment!

Saves FRW money!

Whilst the committee is happy to continue sending hard copies on request if you are happy to receive it by email instead please email me col_forfrw@yahoo.com.au

TO:

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Caring For Our Native Wildlife 4947 3389



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