



# NEWSLETTER 59 JULY 2011

## Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

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## AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CONFERENCE 2012

As the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference is only 365 days away we need to look at funding opportunities to help send some of our members to this must see event. In the past we have been able to fund sending two members to previous conferences.

Could you please register your interest with me ASAP as we would like to assist members with some of the associated costs of the conference if we can get the funding. Obviously, if we get the funding, we will be able to offer this opportunity to several members

We still haven't got the costs of the coming conference yet, however I am told they will be available soon. The costs for the last conference in Adelaide, which will be similar to this conference, were :

Early Bird Rates	Conference Registration (3 days)	\$ 330.00
	Daily Rate	\$ 130.00
Standard rates	Conference Registration (3 days)	\$ 390.00
	Daily Rate	\$ 150.00
Functions, Activities & Items for Sale	Welcome Function	\$ 37.50
	Conference Dinner	\$ 50.00
	Day Trip	\$ 45.00
	½ Day Trip	\$ 20.00
	Field Trip	\$ 90.00
	Necropsy Session	\$ 30.00
	Necropsy Manual	\$ 40.00

Cheers,  
Jacqui

Pretty Faced  
Joev



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*Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Inc.*

Thank you : **JAN JARRATT'S OFFICE** for the printing of hard copies and to **QPWS/DERM** for the use of their offices for our meetings, workshops and other activities.

# THANK YOU WARWICK AND CAROL CHURCH



As all FRW members were aware, and many present at, a Special Meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> of July to introduce Life Memberships into our by-laws and present Warwick and Carol Church with Honorary Life Memberships in recognition of the time and effort they have donated to FRW and helping make it what it is today. Sadly Warwick passed away on the 11/7/11.

FRW offers its condolences to Carol and all Warwick's friends and family.

## THANK YOU WARWICK & CAROL CHURCH

*I was very happy and pleased, when the committee asked me to write a few words about Warwick & Carol's nomination for honorary life membership to Fauna Rescue.*

*In 2001 a few of us including Warwick & Carol, were the founding members of the much needed organization for the care of the native animals of the Whitsunday's. I had previously contacted Warwick to ask him and Carol if they would be interested in joining us. And of course they said yes. With their knowledge of the district and their respect and standing in the local community it was a path to success.*

*Government bodies had to be contacted and a constitution written and it was with Warwick's guidance, that this was achieved. Looking back now Warwick must have thought "when will he ever stop ringing me up" And so we went forward. Warwick wrote the first constitution, and finally all the legal work was sorted out. Carol painted the first sign that caught the local's eye at first glance, and to this day still does.*

*Over the years they have continued to give a lot of support and time. Carol has always been a loyal worker at all fund raising events, and always managed to get the local business support with donations for raffles etc. Carol also is a member of Art Whitsunday and has donated some of her lovely artwork as raffle prizes for FRW in the past. Without them, there would have been no Fauna Rescue as you all know it today. Their commitment and energy to help our local wildlife, has always been to the forefront, in the busy lives that they lead within the local community.*

*Thank you both for all the help you have given to Fauna Rescue over the years, and the bond of personal friendship that you and I have formed since 2001.*

*Derek Webb*

*June 2011*

# POSSUM & GLIDER REPORT

## JULY 2011

At the moment we don't have many possums in care, which can be a good thing (or not). Anyway, we have one on slow release at Wagemakers and one half grown boy with Marie at Midge Point.

One I recently rescued from Hydeaway Bay had to be euthanased because of a very old injury which had caused gangrene in part of his tail. After caring for him overnight and feeding him it was one of those decisions we all talk about. He was feeding well and even though he was dehydrated he would have grown to be a strong possum.

The question was could he cope in the wild eventually? No – he couldn't. The amount of amputation to get to healthy tail would have not left him enough. I cope with that by saying at least his last 24 hours was in the luxury of my bedroom being fed warm milk every three hours.

Last week we went and released Bagherra (our big black boy) back out at Hydeaway Bay so, hopefully, he can keep the unusual colour going with a new family. Another sad but happy occasion on the weekend was when we released Gen Set after 8 months in care and lots of shaky moments early on. He will succeed in the big wide world and have a great life – a big, healthy beautiful animal.

We have a photo, which was printed in the paper, of Corey saying goodbye (*see right*). I thank Geoff at Conway Springs for loving him just briefly and giving him the sanctuary of the national park in which to play.

I also want to thank Sandy Cleeland for coming and taking some photos of my special boys and also providing me with heaps of her photos to use on the display board for community education.

We had a great and exciting new members orientation on the 9<sup>th</sup> July with lots of people attending. Hopefully we can keep these people involved in the organisation.



Barb Adamson  
Possum & Glider SLO

# PROSERPINE ROCK WALLABY REPORT

## JULY 2011

FRW had two hotline reports of Proserpine Rock Wallaby road kills with joeys in July. Our first call was from the Proserpine Vet, unfortunately there was nothing that could be done and this lightly furred joey died within four hours. The second call was attended by Col, Di and I which was a deceased mum with a little unfurred joey. Sadly, despite all our care, this little joey only survived nine days.

Sandy Cleeland,  
Proserpine Rock Wallaby SLO

# A FEW MORE THANK YOUS

## JIM POLLOCK

Another friend of FRW has recently received recognition for the work he has done. Jim Pollock, retired Townsville veterinarian, was recently recognised on the ABC for decades of donating his services to our native wildlife conservation.

Jim was quoted as saying “You get a kick out of all the successes and it sort of makes up for all the odd losses that you have”. An opinion, I think, many of us have.

Many of you will know Jim or have attended one of his informative workshops, which are co-presented by his wife Eleanor.



Photo : Vicky –  
Lola Mudie '09

A big thank you to the Proserpine High School who continue to supply us with a constant supply of possum boxes at no charge.

FRW possums are the envy of their mates – snuggled up warmly in their new houses on these chilly winter nights.

## QPWS/DERM

We would also like to thank QPWS/DERM who kindly donate the use of their offices for our meetings, workshops and get togethers. They are always happy to help and the staff are kind enough to set up the rooms prior to our arrival and allow us use of their projectors, etc.

## A TOP QUALITY SERVICE (by Col Forster)

Every newsletter we thank Jan Jarratt's office for their printing of hard copies of our newsletter. They do not only print the newsletter they provided a service that would be impressive if you paid for it. We don't pay.

They provide this assistance as a community service and it goes far beyond printing. We email them how many copies we need and then they ensure they are ready for our “suggested” pick up time. Coffee and refreshments are provided with a smile while they kindly let me use their office to fold, address and stamp them.

Jan's employees are a credit to her and the services they provide is top quality. It is thanks to their efforts that our newsletters are printed free of cost ensuring all our members are kept up to date with the latest news.

## SOME EXTRA HELP

Due to the recent publicity in the newspapers and our displays at shows, expos and the like we have quite a few new members. We would like to welcome **the Gregory family, S. Smith, D. Scott, Janet Keppke, G. Ogilvie and S. Storeck**. It's great to see FRW's membership continue to grow as more members of our community hear about us and the work we do.

In addition to becoming financial members some of our new members have also offered to assist in other areas. Our ever increasing membership means we now have access to a wider range of skills and talents which helps ease the workload of the other members, many of whom devote a great deal of their spare time to FRW. Thank you all for joining and for all you offers of help – it is people like yourselves who have helped make FRW what it is today. We look forward to getting to know you.

Associations like Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Inc. Rely on the public, grants and the generous donations of money, goods, time and effort from our members. So many people and businesses help and it is greatly appreciated. Everyone contributes in some way, no matter how small.

## THANK YOU



# CATCHING INJURED BIRDS WITH ROWLEY GOONAN

Words and photos  
Linden Baker

*Patience and determination make  
the impossible possible*



Fauna Rescue was lucky enough to have Rowley give a presentation on some of his methods of catching birds. Rowley works independently, he doesn't look after animals himself but is called upon regularly to catch injured or trapped birds, some of which are in very tricky situations.

He presented an interesting slide show that showed some of the injuries he has come across and their treatment. There were so many birds with fish hooks and fishing line entanglements! He entertained us with stories such as the duck with an arrow through its neck that could fly perfectly (it

took a week to catch) and the Brahminy kite that was trapped on telephone wires by fishing line high above a creek. Situations that seemed impossible that, with persistence and determination, were actually possible.

Food is the key to a great many captures, especially to those birds that are used to being fed. Would you believe we learnt how to catch a pelican with a fish and one finger! One of his most used methods is with a simple snare. A hand fishing reel with a long length of heavy gauge fishing line is all you need. Put a ring on the end and thread the line through making a big loop. This is then placed on the ground in a big circle (dependent on the size of the bird) and weighted by small stones.

Skill is the next requirement! Coaxing the bird to step into that loop can sometimes take a long, long time and getting the timing right when pulling the snare needs practice (a stick is sometimes used to help with pulling). We had fun watching Col setting the snare and attempting to catch Rowley (who was concerned he may lose a leg to Col's enthusiastic catching attempts). We also enjoyed Jacqui's bird mimicking skills as she chirped and flapped her way down a food trail that led to her ensnarement. I can imagine all the squawking through the following week as local chooks and ducks were unwitting guinea pigs.



*Col preparing to snare the "Rowley Bird"*

Simple tricks like feeding a bird in water with small pieces of dry bread to coax it close, then using a wet piece that sinks so that the bird submerges its head for that second to retrieve it makes capture possible. Light weight, long handled nets are something he only uses in certain situations. On some species as he finds that they are often unsuccessful, with the birds seeing it coming and disappearing. Techniques such as laying a net along the ground with your foot on the handle, then standing it vertically on its side, allows it to be snapped down very quickly over a bird that tries to eat food placed under it. Other little tricks like keeping your back to a bird you are slowly approaching while using another person to distract the bird with food is another method he uses.

## *Learning some useful techniques*



It was also interesting that Rowley releases many of his injured birds immediately after capture with great success. Whilst some carers keep the injured animal until wounds are healed Rowley treats many wounds, some quite nasty, with just betadine and sometimes a long lasting antibiotic then off they go. Many being locals birds that frequent certain areas they are observed as they heal and they do very well. It makes sense to reduce stress levels by reducing the length of time an animal is caged. This of course aids recovery. Something to think about...

Rowley has kindly supplied his mobile number to us should we need his advice on any tricky situations – 0438 823 100.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Long Necked Turtle  
with injured eye*



## **AGM & Birthday BBQ Celebrations.**

Our AGM was attended by quite a few members and it was lovely to see some new faces and meet some of our newest members. We would also like to thank John Powell for chairing the meeting. It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to our Secretary, Tamsyn, and her husband Nathan who have moved down south due to work & family commitments. Tamsyn was a wonderful secretary as well as a keen rescuer, bandicoot & reptile carer. Tamsyn has also been my “right hand woman” in trying to set up the Airlie Beach Friends of RSPCA group. We wish you both well in your new ventures and trust you will continue your work with wildlife down south.

Lola, Linden, Barb A, Col & myself were re-elected for another year to the committee, but it is with great pleasure we welcome Gerry as committee member and Alix Cunnington, our new secretary, who is already up to speed, keeping up with tasks assigned to her and doing a marvellous job of writing & editing. Alix has also volunteered for the hotline on Saturdays. Thankyou Alix, we look forward to having you on board and appreciate your time, effort and obvious commitment to our organization.

Once the AGM was finished quite a few members stayed on for a lovely 10 year Birthday Celebration BBQ lunch, cooked by Mel Mudie (thanks Mel), with salads & deserts supplied by the committee. Everyone had a relaxing afternoon, discussing many aspects of Fauna Rescue, animals in their care and new ideas. Wendy Wallaby also made a surprise visit. Thank you to all of you who attended, it was so nice to catch up with you all.

## **Seabird Rescue.**

I would like to thank Rowley Goonan, an old member of FRW, who was up here on holidays recently. Rowley rang us to catch up and offered to talk about and demonstrate his techniques of catching injured birds such as pelicans, seagulls and curlews who, whilst having obvious injuries, were difficult to catch as they could still fly. After a very hurried email and several phone calls at short notice we managed to round up a good crowd of bird enthusiasts. Rowley presented an informative and entertaining afternoon, with Col, after several attempts, mastering the art of “flighted” bird catching. See page 5 for story.

## **Whitsunday Show & New Members Orientation Workshop.**

As most of you know we held a stall on the Friday & Saturday at the Whitsunday Show. It was a long day or two for some of us, with Lola bearing the full 2 days, including Friday nights. We would like to thank all our helpers, Lola & Mel Mudie, Barb A, Barb McL, Di & Col, Cryst’l, Kylee, Cathi & Ron, Deb H, Shannon & Dawn for their help on the stall. Once again Wendy Wallaby made several guest appearances both days and it was lovely to see the little kids who had previously met her with Barb at the School/Kindy talks coming up saying “Hello Wendy”. She is definitely having an impact on the kids in our community!

As a result of the show display and also Barb McL’s articles in the local papers regarding our New Members Orientation Workshop last weekend, we have now found some more new members, who seem quite keen to help in many aspects of our organization. The Workshop was a great success and it was exhilarating to see so many new faces, some who remained on for the Carers Coffee ‘n’ Chat, with Wendy, our Macropod SLO after lunch. We would like to welcome you all to our organization and look forward to working with you all.

## **Special Meeting.**

We also held a Special Meeting on the same day as our workshop & Carers Coffee ‘n’ Chat. Previously the committee had discussed giving Life Membership to Founding Members of the organization. A special clause to encompass this was added to our by-laws at the Special Meeting. About this time it was also suggested to us that we give Life Membership to Warwick & Carol Church, as founding members of the organization. (see article on page two of this newsletter) This was agreed on unanimously.

Gerry and I had planned to catch up with Warwick & Carol this week to present them with their Life Membership as unfortunately they have both been unwell and unable to attend the recent meetings. Sadly, Warwick passed away on Monday. Gerry, Tony & I attended the service today, as did Cryst’l, Sandy, Geoff & Marita, which was a lovely and moving reflection on Warwick’s life. Warwick was a pillar in our local community, involved with and inspiring not only our early FRW group but also many other people he met and dealt with over the years. On behalf of FRW we would like to offer our sincere condolences to Carol and her family.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT *cont'd*

## Grant progress.

As reported in the last newsletter we were lucky enough to receive a grant, however, it was in fact not the \$5000 Breakwater Island Community Benefit Fund one for the workshops (this one went into the second round of funding due the end of August), but the \$28+ from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for our School & Community Education Project. With this we are having bags, stickers, brochures, magnets to be given to the school students when we do our talks as well as the big display board we used at the show. We also currently have a grant application in to the Whitsunday Regional Council for a release Aviary/Trailer, another to Gambling Community Benefit Fund for a trailer with mesh sides and tarp cover to transport our display items to our display sites eg markets. This will also come in handy if we need to pick up cages, aviaries etc. We are also looking at other funding too so if you have any ideas on items you feel would benefit our organization and animals, please let one of your committee members know.

Rufous Owl  
Chick



## School Talks.

Barb Adamson has been continuing, with the help of Wendy Wallaby, to give educational talks to the local schools and kindys on our wildlife and their environment. It seems this year we are doing way more talks than previous years which is a good indication that, not only is Barb doing a marvellous job, but also there is much more interest in the school community regarding conservation and our native animals. Well done Barb!

## Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference.

There is only 365 days until the 2012 Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference at Rydges Southbank, Townsville North Queensland on 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012. I suggest that you mark this on your calendar or in your diary as this will be an event not to be missed and being so close to home this time is far more achievable for most of us. Some of us have attended previous conferences and found them jam packed full of info for wildlife carers, made new friendships and caught up with old friends.

## Dr Anne Fowler Workshop.

This is another must to mark in your diary. 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011!

## Code of Practice.

Thank you to those of you who have submitted input into the New Code of Practice for Wildlife Carers. The draft is currently being revised and we are hoping this to be finalized very soon.

Till next time,

Jacqui

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi Everyone,

My name is Alix Cunnington and this is my first issue of FRW's newsletter, with a lot of support from Col and other members. Col has done a great job and like so many members of FRW helps in many different areas. I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as I have enjoyed putting it together and that it lives up to the high standards Col has set.

Any comments or articles, photos, ideas and suggestions for further newsletters please contact me on [frwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:frwsecretary@gmail.com). If sending any photos can you please let me know the subjects name and who the photographer was so I can give them credit.

I look forward to working with you all.

Alix



# FLYING FOXES AND THE HENDRA VIRUS DPI RECOMMENDATIONS

## INFORMATION FOR THE COMMUNITY

(Source DPI – 23/07/2011)

**FURTHER INFORMATION** [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)

Flying foxes are complex, highly social and mobile native animals. They make a significant contribution to environmental health and the economy through their role as essential pollinators and seed dispersers for native forest. In turn, these forests provide valuable timber, act as carbon sinks, and stabilise our river systems and water catchments.

They help maintain the quality of life for Queenslanders, particularly when they access these areas for recreation and commercial tourism.

Queensland has four native species of flying fox:



**Spectacled Flying Fox** (Photo : [aus-city.com](http://aus-city.com))



**Grey Headed Flying Fox** (Photo : [warringah.nsw.gov.au](http://warringah.nsw.gov.au))



**Black Flying Fox** (Photo : [ntnews.com.au](http://ntnews.com.au))



**Little Red Flying Fox** (Photo : [australianbatclinic.com.au](http://australianbatclinic.com.au))

## Flying foxes and Hendra virus

Hendra virus occasionally causes disease in horses and rarely causes disease in humans. Although the disease can be transmitted from horses to humans, there is no evidence that it can be transmitted directly from flying foxes to humans.

The virus was first isolated in 1994 in horses at a racing stable in the suburb of Hendra, Brisbane.

Flying foxes are a natural host for Hendra virus. The spread of Hendra virus from flying foxes to horses is not yet fully understood. However, the virus has been found in the urine, placental material, aborted fetuses and birthing fluids of flying foxes.

Ongoing research is continually increasing our knowledge about this disease.

## Protection of people

There is no evidence of human-to-human or flying fox-to-human spread of Hendra virus. All human infections have been the result of very close contact with infected horses, in particular direct exposure to tissues and secretions from infectious live or dead horses.

People are urged to be extremely vigilant if their horse displays rapid onset of illness such as increased body temperature/fever, increased heart rate and rapid deterioration associated with either respiratory or nervous signs.



# FLYING FOXES AND THE HENDRA VIRUS DPI RECOMMENDATIONS *cont'd*

Take the following steps to reduce the risk of becoming infected with Hendra virus:

- It is strongly advised that you avoid contact with sick horses and their blood and body fluids until a veterinarian has excluded Hendra virus infection.
- If contact with a sick horse is absolutely unavoidable you should seek advice from your veterinarian about appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves, protective eye wear and a face mask. If you have had contact with sick horses, shower with soap, wash your hair and put on clean clothes and footwear before handling other horses.
- Remove any clothing contaminated with body fluids from a sick horse carefully to ensure there is no contact with your face, particularly eyes, mouth and nose.
- After handling any horse wash your hands with soap and water and dry or use hand wipes and waterless hand hygiene solution.

## Protection of horses

Flying foxes often visit properties where native eucalypts, bottlebrushes, lilly-pillies, figs and melaleucas are flowering.

Blossoms are their primary source of food. They will also feed on palm seeds and exotic fruits when native food is less abundant. Horse owners should follow these steps to reduce the risk of their horses becoming infected with Hendra virus:

- Place horse feed and water containers under cover if possible.
- Do not place horse feed and water containers under trees, particularly if flying foxes are attracted to those trees.
- Do not use feed that might be attractive to flying foxes if they are known to be in the area. Fruit and vegetables (e.g. apples, carrots) or anything sweet (e.g. molasses) may attract flying foxes.
- Remove horses from paddocks where flowering/fruited trees are attracting flying foxes, and return horses only after the trees have stopped flowering/fruited and the flying foxes have left.



- If removal of horses from paddocks is not possible, restrict their access to the areas where the flying foxes are active and for the period of time they are present (e.g. under trees while flowers and fruit are present).

It is vitally important to follow good biosecurity and hygiene practices even if you do not know of flying fox colonies in the area.

## Control of flying foxes

Flying foxes and flying fox roosts are protected wildlife under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Any unauthorised attempts to disturb flying fox colonies are not only illegal but also ineffective.

Flying foxes are very mobile animals and occur in most areas of Queensland. They occupy daytime campsites that vary in location, but are commonly found in vegetation along rivers and creeks. Some species, such as the little red flying fox, are migratory and fly long distances across Queensland following food sources, such as flowering trees. They usually move on when the food source is gone.

# FLYING FOXES AND THE HENDRA VIRUS DPI RECOMMENDATIONS *cont'd*

There has been much debate about the role of flying foxes in the spread of this disease; however, culling flying foxes is not an effective way to reduce Hendra virus risk, for several reasons:

- flying foxes are an important part of our natural environment
- flying foxes are a protected species
- flying foxes are widespread in Australia and as they are highly mobile, it is not feasible to cull them
- culling or dispersing flying foxes in one location could simply transfer the issue to another location
- there are far more effective steps people can take to reduce the risk of Hendra virus infection in horses and humans.



Photo :  
[www.wiresnr.org](http://www.wiresnr.org)

## Notify suspected Hendra virus cases by contacting:

- [Biosecurity Queensland](#) on 13 25 23 (during business hours) or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888 (24-hour hotline)
- your GP, local emergency department or local Public Health Unit if you have concerns about possible exposure of people to a horse with Hendra virus infection.

General enquiries about Hendra virus infection in humans may be directed to the Queensland Health Hotline on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

For information about managing the risk of Hendra virus in the workplace, contact [Workplace Health and Safety Queensland](#) on 1300 369 915.

## Further information

- [Department of Environment and Resource Management](#), phone 1300 130 372
- [Biosecurity Queensland](#).

# VET PROTOCOL

Just a reminder to all rescuers and carers of the correct protocol for taking wildlife to the vet. Fauna Rescue relies heavily on the goodwill of our vets, please be considerate when asking the vet for assistance. The following will make it easier both for the vet and the carer.

- Always make an appointment before going.
- Be on time for your appointment. Phone if you are going to be unavoidably late.
- Where possible make appointments in their business hours.
- Do not contact after hours unless the vet has specifically asked you to or it is an emergency. Our local vets work on a roster system after hours, so listen carefully to the phone message and contact the recommended vet on duty.
- Take your current membership card with you to prove you are a member of Fauna Rescue.



# VET PROTOCOL *cont'd*

- Always have your wildlife securely contained. Remember there could be cats and dogs (predators of native animals and birds) so an enclosed or covered cage will reduce stress on the native animal.
- Where necessary take gloves, towels etc. if they are needed when holding the fauna for the vet's examination.
- Heed your vet's professional advice. They have had years of training and experience in their field.
- If you do not understand the instructions given, seek further clarification and explanations prior to leaving the surgery.
- Remember to inform the vet of the outcome if they have asked you to.
- Be prepared to pay for service. If unable to pay please ring the SLO responsible, for permission to bill FRW. Most local vets will only generally charge for drugs and or maybe procedures.

Be aware that some vets are not experienced with wildlife and prefer not to deal with them.

## UNEXPLAINED TURTLE & DUGONG DEATHS

Source : ABC News 22/07/2011 –  
Natalie Poyhonen. Photos :  
[animals.nationalgeographic.com](http://animals.nationalgeographic.com)



As if coping with Hendra is not enough our marine wildlife is also under threat. Sick, lethargic and sometimes dead sea turtles have been washing up on North Queensland beaches. Over the past year there has been a 70% increase in the number of turtle strandings in North Queensland according to the state's marine and environment authorities. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority reports that dugongs are also dying in record numbers.

James Cook University virologist Dr Ellen Ariel says no-one knows how widespread the problem is. "I guess what we're seeing is just the tip of the iceberg. Those turtles that actually float up on beaches where people can find them, there'll be other turtles out there that die or sink to the bottom or get taken up by predators. So we're seeing just a snapshot of what's really going on," she said. Townsville's turtle hospital is full and James Cook University has set up a turtle rehabilitation centre to assist with their care. Dr Ariel said that over the last couple of weeks all of the stranded turtles found have been dead and they have one turtle in care at the moment.

A local resident, Barbara Gibbs, who lives on Magnetic Island, said she has found 20 stranded turtles over the past two months. Barbara and her daughter were initially excited about seeing so many turtles close to shore, until it was remembered that a marine biologist had told Barbara's daughter about this problem and that the turtles were in close to shore as they were dying. Barbara Gibbs was quoted as saying "It's extremely disturbing, I mean this is their home, this is where they lay, it's one of their laying places every year and the thing is that they've lived on this earth for so long, they're such old creatures and the poor things are being killed off".

Experts are trying to find the cause of the deaths but they suspect it may be a result of years of extreme weather (including recent events like Cyclone Yasi). Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Chairman, Dr Russell Reichelt, said "The animal's food source has been decimated. Dugong and green turtles are doing it tough at the moment and we are asking reef users to take extra care. We're going to see more dugongs and green turtles straying from their regular foraging areas in search of food. This makes them more vulnerable to disease and injury or death from other threats that may exist in these unfamiliar territories. Conservationists and scientists are working together to help any turtles that are found alive.



A hotline number has been set up to report sick or dead turtles and dugongs : **1300 130 372**



# CARPET PYTHON UPDATE

I know many of you have been waiting to hear how the carpet python Linden has been caring for is progressing. Everything is going well – see below for the latest *update and photos by Linden Baker*.

For those (I hope all of you) that read my article last newsletter about the Carpet Python with nasty injuries. Have a look now! After 3 months his skin and mouth are all healed.

He's eating well and he just needs to re-grow his teeth.

*All healed – just waiting for teeth*



*His mouth was badly damaged on arrival*



He's eating well and now his gums have healed he just needs to re-grow his teeth – which is a slow process due to the amount of damage he had to his mouth.

On arrival into care he was sluggish and barely required restraint during handling, he is now strong and alert and will happily bite if given an opportunity. Compared to his condition when he was first brought in he is like a different snake.

He is eating well and putting on weight, building up his strength and with the cold weather enjoys curling up on his heat pad. At this stage we are looking at a spring release.

*A big difference to when he arrived*



*Some nasty wounds*



## SOME WELCOME PUBLICITY

While reading the papers lately you may have noticed a familiar face. Both the Whitsunday Coast Guardian and the Whitsunday Times both ran articles on our new members orientation workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup> July. For those who missed them see 13/7/11 edition of WCG and 14/7/11 issue of WT. SLO Wendy Adams, new member Brittney and a rescued joey were featured in the photos.

It's great to not only have so many new members turn up to see how they can help but also to see the local papers getting involved in publicising the work we do



*Shawn*



# FRW ON DISPLAY

It's been a busy couple of months for our volunteers running displays in addition to their normal workload. On the 11<sup>th</sup> May Barb

Adamson and Lola Mudie manned our FRW display at the TAFE's Skills Expo. With catering supplied by the High School hospitality students (who were practising their waiting and barista skills) including warm biscuits and scones - all fresh from the kitchen.

Lola and Barb had a productive day. A few took brochures and membership forms. As usual the photo album was a hit and many commented on how small and cute some of the animals were. The employment people also said they had people who would be prepared to do volunteer work to update their skills. We may take them up on this for our next working bee.

FRW also had a display at the Strengthening Families Expo on the 18<sup>th</sup> June operated by Lola and Linden. While it was a quiet day opportunities like this give us the chance to promote FRW and the work we do. This ensures we maintain contact with the public and often results in offers of donated money, goods or services – not to mention one or two new members.

This expo was no exception. Running from 10.30am to 2.30pm it offered a large range of stalls, in the main those providing services to the community. Disability services, mini health checks and Tai Kwan Do all had displays set up with many freebies and handouts on offer. The fire brigade did practical demonstrations – lighting and putting out fires safely which the kids loved.



Our first visitor was an ex-carer who lives in Marion. She may be donating her unwanted cages and heat pads/rocks and showed interest in becoming a member, in addition to another lady. Our photo album was a big hit – kids and parents alike love looking at the animals we have helped. The photos promote our work and are something that sticks in the mind, especially that of the kids.

Another big hit with the kids were the hands on displays. Interactive play displays offering things like colourful play things, glowing/flashing things, buckets of slimy balls, drawing supplies, cloth cubbies with tunnels etc. attracted large groups of children. We incorporated some of these ideas into our show display and will use them in other displays in the future – a great idea for getting both the kids and parents involved.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June our display at the Whitsunday Show was a busy day for all those who volunteered. See the President's Report on page 6 for more details.

Displays at Expos and Shows like this help educate the community and help ensure our fauna's survival. While we may not receive very many large donations sometimes it is the little ones that make a difference. People learn how to appreciate and live in harmony with our native wildlife. They learn how to help injured, sick and orphaned animals and who to contact if they should find one. This knowledge not only saves lives but also helps improve them.

PS : Congratulations to Lola for winning the prize draw for completing the comments survey at the Strengthening Families Expo.



# MACROPOD REPORT



G'day to you all,

*Dinner time for  
the koala twins*



Well I'd like to say that we haven't been getting anything in but unfortunately I can't. As usual the land is drying out, pick is getting scarce & a lot of our native animals are looking for green pick. For some it means crossing roads, so it's time to get out those pouches, re-stock on formulas & get ready. Hopefully we don't get too many.



*Bindi the  
Wallaroo*

On a brighter note I attended the "new members orientation workshop" a few weeks ago & was very impressed with the number that rolled up, hopefully most will become carers.

There was also a "cuppa & chat session" in the arvo for carers & again I was glad to see that many turned up. We've never had one before & many didn't know what they were supposed to do, well it's more of a social get together than a meeting.

The fact is we don't all just do wildlife, we all have different lives outside of caring & sometimes we don't see or hear from another carer for ages, so I thought that I'd put on 3 cuppa & chat days a year where people can talk wildlife, the one thing we all have in common. I'm planning to have a BBQ lunch at my place on Sat. the 12th of Nov. for the next one so mark it on your calendars. The weather should be warmer & we have a pool, so it should be a good day.



*Lucky the Swamp Wallaby*

I've been babysitting a little Agile for another carer recently & the poor little thing had thrush, colic & he was badly dehydrated due to the runs. I won't go into all the details of what I did but he's almost back to 100%. I'd just like to remind you all that vet care isn't the only thing we can source when we have sick ones.



*Bath time for  
Charlie*

*Corey & Sky*



I get herbal medicines from a woman called Anne-Marie Dineen ND, she is a Herbalist/Naturopath, a member of ATMS/NHAA and she is also a wildlife carer of many years. I highly recommend her. We got the little fellow right with a combination of her thrush formula, SB Pro capsules, Bentonite & the odd pooh shake. So next time you need to go to a vet think twice & give Anne-Marie a call on 5484 7354.

Well that's it from me, catch up with you all soon.

Cheers,  
Wendy Adams  
M.S.L.O.



*Wiggles*



*Betty the  
Rufous  
Bettong*





# PIED CORMORANT

Mel dropped me off a pied cormorant the other day, it didn't look good at all. At first I thought it had some kind of brain injury because it kept shaking its head, but on closer inspection I could

see hundreds of lice on its head and neck. The rest of the body was clear - I guess because that part is usually under water. The poor bird was exhausted because the lice were basically driving it nuts, it just continually shook its head to get rid of the itch. We sprayed him straight away with bird lice spray and rubbed it through his feathers.

We were told there was a fish hook under his wing so checked that out. There was an old injury but no hook luckily. So Mel headed off to de louse himself and clean out his car which the cormorant had pooped in, and I got rid of the lice that had moved onto me. They were everywhere! I set up a small cage in a sunny spot for him to dry in and in he went, straight to sleep for a couple of hours. Probably the first uninterrupted sleep he'd had for a while.



*Lice Treatment*



*Building up his strength*

I had a better examination of him when he woke up. The lice were mostly dead and I checked the old wound under his wing again which was mostly healed and needed no attention. I saw he was also recovering from a broken toe. I guess that was why he got weak enough for the lice to take over. So back in the cage he went and off fishing I went. Luckily we often go cast netting and Jim and I were able to catch enough small fish for a few feeds. He ate readily, then went back to sleep for the night.

Next day he was much brighter so I moved him to a larger, easier to clean cage. If anyone has looked after a sea bird you will know what a smelly mess they make. He went into my large mesh enclosure which has no base so he could walk and poop on the grass. Sea birds have delicate feet and need a soft surface if they are going to be caged, grass is perfect. It is also perfect for cleaning as it can be hosed and the cage moved to a new patch regularly.

Then it was off cast netting again. I always try to give fresh fish as frozen fish lack some of the nutrients that sea birds need and as cormorants have a very good appetite we were kept busy fishing for the next few days.

After 6 days of TLC and rest he was ready to be released so after a final lice spray to kill any newly hatched critters, he was off home. He had a long bath when he finally took to the water, looked like he was really enjoying himself, then he slowly headed off.

*Story and Photos :Linden Baker*



*Going home!*

# A FEW WORDS FROM THE RSPCA

*Quite a handful -  
Annette and Dingo  
puppies*

I have been recently appointed as the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Coordinator for RSPCA Qld. I have moved from NSW where I was working as a native mammal zoo keeper and previously managing a wildlife sanctuary where we bred quolls and other various threatened species.

Some of you will be familiar with the 1300ANIMAL (1300 264 625) rescue service that we offer, used to report injured or distressed animals. The objective of the 1300ANIMAL number is to centralise, simplify and expediate the reporting and rescue of animals who are injured on the road, sick or orphaned. The RSPCA call centre (manned 24 hours all year round) will then direct the call to the nearest wildlife rescuer or rescue group in that area. The call center operator telephones a carer or rescuer directly whilst the finder is on hold, and they can then be connected directly to each other. The program is currently operating only in Qld but it is an initiative that will eventually go national.



Currently I am looking for people to be included on the RSPCA database. "Shelter Mate" is the RSPCA's database that can search for a rescuer or carer, by species and suburb. I would like to encourage carers to register as a rescue contact for your area; this will ensure the success of the program statewide. In most cases we will attempt to ring individual carers/rescuers for a rescue job prior to contacting wildlife groups as this will cut out the middle man and help will get to the animal a lot quicker. It will also take a lot of the strain off group volunteer phone coordinators. You can download a registration form from the RSPCA Qld website under the Wildlife link, or contact me on 07 34269986 or by email and I will send you one out.

If anyone has any questions or comments please feel free to contact me. I have been a wildlife carer in NSW for about 12 years, so having recently moved to Qld for my new job, I am looking forward to getting to know the QLD carers!

Cheers

Annette

## CAN YOU HELP?

If you have any useful items related to rescuing or caring for wildlife to either give away or sell contact Lola Mudie on 07 494 1281 or [melo@mackay.net.au](mailto:melo@mackay.net.au)

### Items for Sale

Possum books by Sonya Stanvic, "Rescued" compiled by Jodie Blackney, workshop notes by Dr Jim Pollock, reusable heat pads, assorted FRW t-shirts (from \$12.00), rescue baskets, car signs, lawn signs

### Items to Give Away

Disposable cage liners, small mammal pouches, towels, pouches for pinkie joeys or possums. A sample of these items will be available at all our meetings, workshops and get togethers.



# CROCS ..... WHAT CROCS?

Words and  
photos –  
Rowley  
Goonan

Many thanks to Fauna Rescue and all those members who came along for my slide show and snaring demonstration. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and I really appreciated being told the presentation was interesting and useful. Hopefully we'll see some new 'snaring aficionados' out there putting those techniques into practice!

The day after the workshop Col invited me along on the Croc Safari. I didn't know about this well established commercial operation so when he emailed asking, 'how do you feel about crocs', my initial reaction was caution. It sounded like he had a croc rescue on the go and wanted to know if I was interested. OK, I thought, this is going to be very different from snaring pelicans. It was a relief to learn that he was actually inviting me on a crocodile and wildlife tour!

*A big croc – over 3 METRES*



What a great day it was. Col's partner Di, his mum Brenda and I were picked up and driven out to the company base on the Proserpine River. The day was perfect, with a low tide and cool morning. Col was our guide. He said that conditions were ideal because crocs would leave the water and sun themselves on the river bank to raise their body temperature.

I didn't know what to expect. Were there many crocs here and would we see any? I'd never heard of crocs in the Whitsundays.

Our group all piled down the ramp and onto the croc boat with Col at the helm, everyone feeling excited. I swear we hadn't gone two hundred meters and there on the bank was our first crocodile! A

hundred meters further on we saw another one – then another – then more. They were everywhere and some were really big. Nobody asked to stop for a swim.

It was a great boat trip. Very exciting. Col provided a comprehensive commentary. At times we nudged the bank only meters from very large reptiles. You could almost reach over and touch them. Some of the kids on board were excellent spotters pointing out cute, young crocs recently hatched.

Following the river trip we were treated to a great bar-b-que lunch, then it was onto the wagon for a tour through the surrounding wetlands and forest. *I have never seen so much wildlife in such a small area.* There were wallabies, snakes and birds everywhere we looked. Species included beautiful kingfishers, kites, wedge-tailed eagles, magpie geese and a pair of spectacular brolgas that put on a dance for us. A tasty afternoon tea and damper followed. Then it was back on the bus for home.

A lot of activities at Airlie Beach cater for tourists wanting ocean and offshore trips. But for anyone wanting a real taste of Australia and our unique wildlife you can't beat the Whitsunday Crocodile Safari. It was fantastic! Thanks so much to the management who made it possible for us to enjoy such a great day.

**Rowley Goonan**

*Col at the helm with  
a croc in the  
background sunning  
on the bank*



*Cruising down the Proserpine  
River, everyone on the lookout*



# MORE CROCS?

After reading about Rowley's adventure I'm sure many of you, like me, are thinking I must do that. It sounds like a great experience. Having moved to Queensland from Victoria about 3 years ago I, like many others I'm sure, had come to think all the "DANGER CROCODILE" signs were urban legend. I knew they were seen on a regular basis around Mackay Marina but had never seen any signs of any since our arrival despite living in a unit on the beach for 18 months.

Having spent a memorable couple of days "stalking" freshwater crocodiles at Chinaman's Dam (in Cloncurry) to take photos this is a tour I really want to go on. I'm sure many other members (and their families) would also enjoy the opportunity. FRW would like to organise a day for members to go on the "Croc Safari".

Whitsunday Crocodile Safaris have been members of FRW for years and have also donated a prize for the next issue of the newsletter. I have spoken to Whitsunday Crocodile Safaris and they are willing to offer a discount to us as we are from FRW and if we get over 20 people who wish to come they will give a further discount. Thank you for your kind offer.

Any members interested in participating please contact Alix on [frwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:frwsecretary@gmail.com) or 4959 91901/0459 415 590.

## TREASURER'S REPORT JUNE 2011

### Account Balances

May figures have been completed and sent to the committee. Please note amendment to income sheet re Sue Bell. The figures provided below are as at PM 09/06/2011.

#### **FRW Account**

Balance \$ 3,613.41

#### **Cash Reserve Account**

Balance \$ 34,714.46

#### **Expense Claims**

Total \$ 119.16

If you kiss me I'll  
turn back into a  
prince.



*Green Tree Frog  
with fungal infection*

#### **Bills to Pay**

Total \$ 1,047.37

#### **Outstanding Business**

No outstanding business

#### **General**

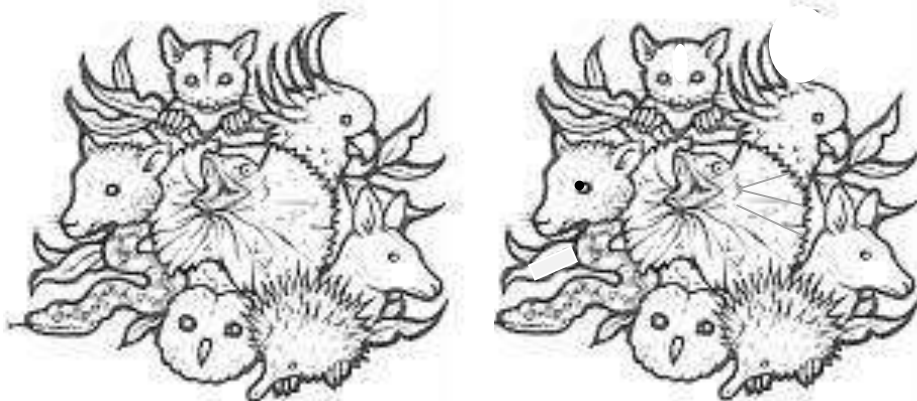
Rotary Raffle \$ 1,365 raised and banked, cheque to Rotary.

**Col**

# WENDY WALLABY'S FUN PAGE

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Look carefully and you might notice a few things missing or changed in the second picture. Can you tell Wendy what they are (there are 5)? You might like to colour in after you have finished.



## WHAT AM I?

**I come in many different colours.**

**I am found all over the world.**

**I can live in water and on land.**

**I am not very big but I can make a lot of noise.**

**Some members of my family have suction cups on their feet to help them climb**



## CAN YOU FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS?

Scales, venom, forked, reptile, skin, egg, tongue, python, sun, shed, teeth, mice, rats.

The words may be forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

F	P	S	C	A	L	E	S
O	S	Y	K	C	M	P	F
R	E	P	T	I	L	E	T
K	E	U	C	H	N	M	E
E	S	E	G	S	O	E	E
D	H	G	H	N	N	N	T
G	E	S	E	G	O	U	H
T	D	V	N	R	A	T	S



## AGE GROUPS

5-7 years old  
8-10 years old  
11-13 years old

## COMPETITION PLEASE MAKE US A HOME BUILD A CRICKET CASTLE OR COCKROACH KINGDOM

(by Linden Baker)

To all you budding artists out there how about doing what my young nieces did and create a cricket castle or cockroach kingdom.

As everyone knows – or I hope you do – I breed cockroaches, mealworms and crickets for our injured creatures. They love lots of hidey holes and enjoy a good climb over new objects. A few rules though :

- Cardboard only, we can't climb plastic
- No sticky tape – we get stuck to it!
- No taller than 35cm as we might just leave home

### THE BEST CASTLE/KINGDOM IN EACH AGE GROUP WILL WIN

- A book on Australian Wildlife
- Photo of winner and castle in next newsletter
- For those brave enough, come visit my bugs and set up your castles

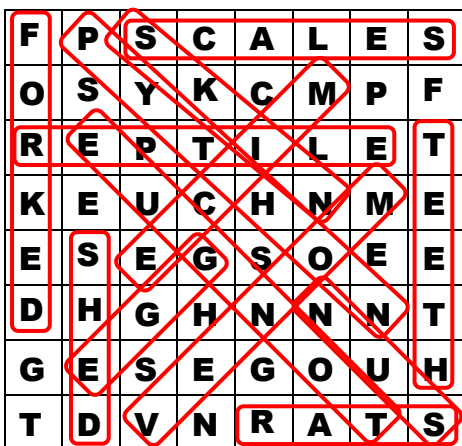
Completed Cricket Castles/Cockroach Kingdoms need to be dropped off to your nearest committee member by 31/08/11. Winners will be notified by the 15/09/11.

## UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

# FRW NOTICEBOARD

DATE	EVENT	WHERE	MORE INFO
August	FRW Committee Meeting	TBA	FRW Committee Members
12 <sup>th</sup> November, 2011	Cuppa 'n' Chat for Carers – with BBQ lunch	Wendy Adams place	Wendy/FRW newsletter
26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> November, 2011	Dr Anne Fowler Workshop	TBA	FRW newsletter
16 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2012	Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference	Townsville, Qld	<a href="http://www.2012awrc.org.au">www.2012awrc.org.au</a> FRW Newsletter

## WENDY WALLABY'S FUN PAGE ANSWERS



### FIVE DIFFERENCES

1. Stripe on possums head different
2. Extra lines on frill neck lizards neck
3. Part of cockatoos crest missing
4. Wallaby's eye black
5. Line missing off gum leaf (front left)

**WHAT AM I – I AM A FROG**

## POSITIONS VACANT

Hotline Co-ordinator  
Hotline Operators  
Fundraising and Events Co-ordinator

## KEEPING US UP TO DATE

**All our members are valuable to us. If you should move, change your phone number or change your email address please don't forget to contact Lola Mudie (our membership officer) and update your details. This will ensure that you are kept up to date with all the latest FRW news.**

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS INCLUDING

COLES CANNONVALE  
WHITSUNDAY LIONS  
QUEENSLAND PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE/DERM  
JAN JARRATT'S OFFICE  
WHITSUNDAYS CROCODILE SAFARIS  
**'SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US'**





## Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

P. O. Box 806, Cannonvale 4802

Hotline : 07 4947 3389

# USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

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<b>Vice President</b> – Lola Mudie Phone : 4946 1281 Email : <a href="mailto:melo@mackay.net.au">melo@mackay.net.au</a>	<b>Proserpine Rock Wallaby SLO</b> – Sandy Cleeland Phone : 4947 3324 Email : <a href="mailto:sandy.cleeland@optusnet.com.au">sandy.cleeland@optusnet.com.au</a>	<b>ALL SNAKES</b> Peter Basso (fee charged) 0439 478 140 Kylee Gray (fee charged) 0424 456 254
<b>Treasurer</b> – Col Forster Phone : 4946 1713 0439 762 130 Email : <a href="mailto:melo@mackay.net.au">melo@mackay.net.au</a>	<b>Bat SLO</b> – Alix Cunningham Phone : 4945 91901 0459 415 590 Email : <a href="mailto:frwsecretary@gmail.com">frwsecretary@gmail.com</a>	<b>VETERINARY SURGERIES</b> Whitsunday Vet Clinic Julie Ruddell 29 Sugarloaf Road, Cannon Valley 4946 1028 Orchid Valley Vet Surgery Mark Williams Cnr Shute Harbour & Orchid valley Roads, Cannonvale 4946 1028
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<b>FRW COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	<b>Frog SLO</b> – Kylee Gray Phone : 0424 456 254	Bowen Veterinary Clinic 156 Richmond Road, Bowen 4786 4864
<b>Membership &amp; Merchandising Officer</b> – Lola Mudie Phone : 4946 1281 Email : <a href="mailto:melo@mackay.net.au">melo@mackay.net.au</a>	<b>BOWEN AREA – All Specias SLO</b> – Carol Consentino Phone : 4946 1281	Brolgas Rest Vet Clinic 36 Don Street, Bowen 4786 3166
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	<b>FRW Website</b> <a href="http://www.frw.org.au">www.frw.org.au</a>	
<b>NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS/SPECIES LIASON OFFICERS</b>	<b>FRW Animal Records</b>	<b>RSPCA Mackay</b> 4953 4265
<b>Koalas/Birds/Raptors/Echinda SLO &amp; Hotline Co-ordinator</b> – Jacqui Webb Phone : 4947 3308 0427 176 966 Email : <a href="mailto:Jacqui.webb@bigpond.com">Jacqui.webb@bigpond.com</a>	<a href="http://www.frw.org.au/AnimalRecords/AnimalRecords.php">http://www.frw.org.au/AnimalRecords/AnimalRecords.php</a>	<b>RSPCA Hotline</b> 1300 ANIMAL (264 625)
	<b>QPWS Jubilee Pocket</b> 4967 7355	<b>POLICE</b> Whitsunday 4948 8888 (24 hours)
	<b>DERM/EPA Hotline (including marine strandings)</b> – 1300 130 372	Proserpine 4945 1333
<b>Koalas/Reptiles/Small Mammals SLO &amp; Food Supplies</b> – Linden Baker Phone : 4946 1198 Email : <a href="mailto:james.chisolm@bigpond.com">james.chisolm@bigpond.com</a>	<b>Website Editor</b> – Gerry O'Connor	Bowen 4761 3500
	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> – Alix Cunningham Phone : 4945 91901 0459 415 590	Collinsville 4785 5377

**ADVANTAGES OF NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL**

Fast delivery! Colour pictures! Saves the environment! Saves FRW money!

Whilst the committee is happy to continue to send hard copies on request if you are happy to receive it by email instead please let me know at [frwsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:frwsecretary@gmail.com)



*Where's dinner?*  
Photo : Al McLeod

*What a monster!!!*



**TO:**

**Fauna Rescue Whitsundays  
Association Inc.**



**Caring for our Native Wildlife**

**4947 3389**



**Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 806 Cannonvale 4802**  
**Hotline : 07 4947 3389**