



NEWSLETTER 63 JUNE 2012

Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

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ALPACA SECURITY

Anyone involved in helping our wildlife will be aware of the losses they suffer from predation by foxes and wild dogs. Despite secure fencing Ballarat Wildlife Park in Victoria (set on approximately 7 acres) was unable to keep foxes from preying on young Tamar Wallabies, ducks, cygnets, quokkas and Western Grey joeys.



Photo : sewweekly.com

At the suggestion of a local breeder the wildlife park is using an innovative technique to stop the foxes in their tracks. Three Alpaca security guards have been brought in to protect the animals in the park – and they're doing a great job.

With strong herd instincts Alpacas can emit a piercing alarm call to warn their flock of danger. They have excellent eyesight and if they see a fox they will chase it away and stomp on it with their front feet if they catch it, often killing the fox. Used to protect sheep and chickens in the past the Alpacas are proving that they are just as good at protecting our native wildlife.

The new Alpaca security team has bonded well with the locals and they are enjoying their new role as wildlife protectors. Since starting work the Alpacas have ensured there have been no more successful fox attacks and they plan to keep it that way.

It's wonderful to see environmentally friendly solutions being used to protect our wildlife. Another great idea is using Guinea Fowl to keep snakes away from your house. Guinea Fowl make excellent "watch dogs" and will alert you to danger – in addition to discouraging snakes, rodents and eating ticks, flies and other annoying insects.

I'M SORRY

Just a short note to apologise for the lateness of this edition of our newsletter. Unfortunately I have been interstate for the past two months due to family commitments and I was unable to get this issue out prior to my departure.

The Editor

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO

FAUNA RESCUE WHITSUNDAYS ASSOCIATION INC

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION WORKSHOP



29th September 2012 10am

QPWS Office

**Cnr Mandalay & Shute Harbour Roads
(Mandalay Road entrance)**

If you would like to attend please RSVP by 22/09/12

CONTACT DETAILS PAGE 16

PRESIDENTS REPORT *June 12*

AGM

Thank you to all of those who attended the AGM. We would like to welcome to the committee Bob Daisley from Dingo Beach, Kylee Gray from Jubilee Pocket & Monika Gabor from Cannonvale. We say goodbye to Gerry & Barb and thank them all for their help and support on the committee. Gerry will continue to look after the website and Barb is continuing on as Possum SLO and doing the school talks. Still standing are Alix, Col, Lola, Linden & myself.

Finalized Grant

We would like to advise all members that our grant from the Building Rural Communities has now been finalized. This grant did cover the costs of the Dr Anne Fowler workshop, plus we purchased numerous size cages and aviaries for loan as well as rescue kits for new members. The rescue kits will be available at the New Members Orientation meeting to be held on 29th September (details above). If you do need to loan the cages/aviaries please give Col a call to organize. All Fauna Rescue property that is loaned out does require the lendee to fill in loan agreement form. The fresh water turtle pond is now complete at my place and we have also purchased a large portable tub for holding sea turtles or echidnas.

Assistance for carers

I would also like to remind all carers that the committee does assist with some reimbursement of Vet bills as well as an animal food rebate. Members who want to apply for either of the above need to ensure their animal records are up to date (but of course we all have our records up to date, don't we). You then just need to contact one of our committee members to obtain a claim form, fill this in and send it to Col, email or snail mail, with receipts 78 hours before a committee meeting.

New Wallaby Enclosure

We are looking for helpers to get the new wallaby enclosure up and running and will be organising several working bees, dates to be advised. If you can help please contact Bob (see page 16 for his details).

Code of Practice

The new Code of Practice for wildlife carers is still in the pipeline. Once released by the department we will be ensuring that all members have access to a copy.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

We would like to say thank you to Sandy for running the sausage sizzles at Bunnings over the last few months and thank you to Lorelle & Duncan for offering to take this over while Sandy is away. Thank you also to Coles and Brumby's for their continued support of this event.

Cheers, Jacqui ☺

EYES ON THE PROSSY ROCK

Article : Christine Peterson/WCL
Photos : QPWS

At the last WCL General Meeting Barry Nolan from Queensland Parks & Wildlife (QPWS) attended to give another informative talk on our endangered Proserpine Rock Wallaby (PRW - *Petrogale persephone*). This time the focus was on the upcoming colony monitoring and the tricks and tools used.

Over the next 12 months QPWS will be monitoring known colonies as well as attempting to find critical refuge sites at selected locations. Despite the threats from habitat loss due to urban and rural residential development, traffic, domestic and feral cats and dogs as well as toxic garden plants, the PRW appears to currently have a reasonable population in at least one well-established rural residential area at Strathdickie. Despite having trapped good numbers over the years in this area, the location of the actual colony refuge site is unknown. Park Rangers hope to find where this is with the next round of monitoring.



Stringline used to help monitor the PRWs

Surprisingly the equipment used need not be overly technical - traps, Lucerne, glue, 600-1000m of strong cotton line...and dedicated rangers to do the legwork of regularly carrying Lucerne into difficult sites and then later following a criss-cross network of string up to 1000m long through bush, across and up steep boulder strewn gullies and potentially through stinging trees! The animals who get to lay down the merry chase are not stressed by the adventure (proven through scientific study) and usually lose the string package from their fur in a few hours to a day or so.

Disease Threat to PRW

Hydatid disease is caused by a tapeworm, *Echinococcus granulosus*, introduced to Australia at the time of European settlement and now widespread. The parasite has a larval stage in herbivores and an adult stage in carnivores, usually dogs. Macropods appear to be more susceptible to the larval stage than domestic animals, perhaps because there has been little time for them to adapt to the parasite. If infected they develop cysts, usually in the lungs.

Post-mortems conducted on PRWs by veterinarians concluded that a number of these deaths were directly attributable to large Hydatid cysts reducing lung capacity. Given the low number of dead PRWs that undergo such investigation and the high numbers of dogs that occur in and around their habitat, Hydatid disease is considered a serious risk to the PRW.

Note: Hydatid cysts can also infect humans, potentially causing severe medical conditions. The best prevention is maintaining good hygiene; especially washing hands after touching dogs.

For more information: http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/PC_94419.html

How to Spot a Prossy Rock

The PRW is marked with subdued colours which enable it to blend into its shaded habitat. The surface body colour is dark grey with a light mauve tinge.

Backs of the ears are dark brown to black with a lighter pencil marking running about the edge of the ear, while the chest and belly are a light grey to dirty cream colour. The tail is long and mostly black in colour with the base a rich rufous brown and the dorsal surface of the tail lighter in colour. Some individuals have a light rufous-brown colouration on the forearm with dark brown to black on the wrists and forepaws. A distinctive cream tip on the brush of the tail is present in some individuals, while others may lack any lighter tail marking (Johnson 2003).

Like all rock-wallabies the toe nails on the hind feet are reduced to short stout hooks and the soles of the hind feet have thick fleshy pads which aid grip when the wallabies are moving over rocks.

Information sourced from Department of Environment and Resource Management. 2010. *National recovery plan for the Proserpine rock-wallaby* *Petrogale persephone*.

INTERESTING FACT : A platypus can eat its own body weight in food in a 24 hour period



THANK YOU

**FRW WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO KINDLY OFFER
THEIR ASSISTANCE AND WHO HAVE MADE DONATIONS
INCLUDING**

**Coles Cannonvale, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Whitsunday Regional
Council, Bunnings, Brumbys, The Bunnings BBQ Crew, and Jason Costigan's
office**

"SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED FRW AND OUR WILDLIFE"

CLEANING UP & SAVING LIVES

To celebrate World Ocean Day on June the 8th Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc. and a band of volunteers went out to collect marine debris. This latest trip was made possible by the donations raised from Bingo at Club Croc held each Friday at 7pm.

On board that day was an extra passenger, a green sea turtle named "Wray". The sea turtle was found by a local resident, John Whatmough, trapped in an abandoned crab pot near Long Island and was in shock appearing nearly lifeless. "The turtle was extremely lucky he did not drown in that crab pot as he had been caught in it for who knows how long?" said John.



41 bags of marine debris was collected
Photos : © Stephanie Pollard

The turtle was also lucky that John found and rescued him taking him to Libby Edge for care. John was amazed at the difference in Wray after he was moved into a recovery tank. Within a short period of time Wray was energetically swimming about – astounding both Libby and John with his rapid recovery.

Weighing in at 8 kgs and 43cms long Wray was only a young turtle estimated to be about 20 years old. – sea turtles can live for up to 100 years!. Wray was carefully monitored over the next few days to ensure that no further side effects from being trapped were evident. Despite the ordeal Wray made a full and speedy recovery and was given a clean bill of health ready for release in time for the clean up planned for World Ocean Day.

After his 2nd boating expedition in a week Wray is now free and happily swimming around the beautiful Whitsunday Islands again - thanks to all the efforts from Fauna Rescue Whitsundays, Libby Edge and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.



Wray heading back home
Photos : © Stephanie Pollard

After the successful release of 'Wray' the Eco Barge Volunteers got straight into cleaning up one very impacted beach from marine debris on Shaw Island. The volunteers worked hard and enthusiastically to collect a total of 41 large bags of marine debris totalling 278 kg.

This week the Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc. band of volunteers will count and sort this huge pile of marine debris and enter each and every piece into a National Marine Debris Data Base to help find out where and what types of marine debris enters the Whitsunday Islands.

Libby Edge, the Founding Chair of Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc. wants to thank all the support from the players at Bingo at Club Croc and the hard effort all the volunteers put into the cleanup day to make the World Oceans Day such a great success. "That is a precious marine environment. This is the best gift we can give back to our oceans and marine life. This cleanup day was a true community effort to help protect our local marine environment" said Libby.

See page 12 for more info on sea turtles and a photo of Wray caught in the crab pot.

BANDICOOTS IN THE GARDEN FACT SHEET

This fact sheet contains information sourced from members of Long Grass Nature Refuge, Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers, members of other groups, independent advice and research.

Bandicoots

Bandicoots are nocturnal, solitary animals occurring in a wide variety of habitats throughout Australia. They are protected by the *Fauna Protection Act* and are included on the National Parks & Wildlife Service's threatened species list.

Appearance

Bandicoot size varies between species, adult head-body length ranging from approx. 30-43cm, weight between 500-1900gms. The males are larger than the females. Bandicoots are generally light grayish brown in colour, and have a characteristic long slender nose used for foraging in soil, rotting wood or in rock crevices.

The coat is generally sleek and coarse haired. The hind legs are longer than the front legs and carry most of the animals' weight. The hind foot resembles that of a kangaroo. The toes have long sharp claws suitable for digging in soil. Bandicoots have excellent hearing and eyesight. They emit a sharp, high-pitched squeak when foraging.

Breeding

Bandicoots are able to breed at any time of year. Nests are made of grasses which are pulled or woven together and often located under an overhang or dense thicket. They may also be found in long grass or low shrubbery in a protected spot. Reproduction in bandicoots is unique. They are the only marsupials with a placenta similar to that found in eutherian* mammals, and the gestation period is only about 12.5 days, the shortest time for any mammal.

Bandicoots are typical marsupials in that the young are born in a rudimentary condition (similar to kangaroos) and continue development within a pouch. The pouch, unlike that of a kangaroo, slopes downwards and backwards, opening at the rear, protecting the young while the mother is digging in the soil. Bandicoots have eight teats, arranged in two curved rows of four within the pouch, although four is the average size of a litter. The young stay in pouch for approximately 50 days, weaning occurring at about 50-60 days. After this time, the animals have to fend for themselves.

Habitat, location and behaviour

Bandicoots are normally found in wet and dry sclerophyll forest and rainforest. The long-nosed bandicoot is also found in many suburbs, living in tussock-like grass and feeding in lawn-type areas. By day, a bandicoot will rest in a sheltered spot, lined with grasses and leaves, on the surface of the ground, foraging at night, sometimes in suburban areas.

Conical holes in your lawn mean bandicoots have been looking for food. Solitary animals, with males being very territorial, bandicoots only come together for mating and feeding. Even young ones do not associate with their mothers for long, once weaned. Sometimes a few individuals can be seen feeding in close proximity to one another.

Bandicoots in the Garden

Diet - Bandicoots are omnivorous, with a diet that includes some native fruits, berries and fungus, but basically are dependent on protein. They consume a wide variety of surface and soil dwelling invertebrates - earthworms, earwigs, cockroaches, crickets, grasshoppers, spiders, adult beetles, beetle larvae and pupae, moths, ants and termites. They usually dig for food but are opportunistic feeders and will also eat small mammals such as mice.

Benefits of Bandicoots in the Garden

Bandicoots are known as the gardeners' best friend. They eat cockroaches and spiders and relish the black beetle and beetle larvae (known as curl grubs) which cause die-back in suburban lawns. Brown patches in the lawn may indicate an infection of these pests. Bandicoot activity, indicated by the appearance of small conical holes in the lawn, should be a welcome sign, it means that bandicoots are at work, eating these destructive insects before they ruin your lawn! If you use pesticides, you could also poison bandicoots, as they ingest some soil while they are feeding.



Northern Brown Bandicoot
Australianwildlife.org

BANDICOOTS IN THE GARDEN FACT SHEET

continued

Eastern Barred Bandicoot
australianfauna.com



By digging, the animals are also aerating your lawn for free, so in the Spring, your lawn will grow back with renewed vigor. Bandicoots cause no long term damage and are beneficial to lawns and gardens. They are protected and are currently under threat due to both habitat loss and predation. If you live in a bandicoot territory and you have a suitable food source, you will have bandicoots in your yard. Once the food source has gone, they will move on.

If you wish to deter bandicoots from an area in your yard, you could floodlight that particular area, as they do not like bright lights. You could also try Dynamic Lifter or chicken poo, as these products have a strong ammonia smell which most animals dislike. A combination

of both bright light and smell appear to have the greatest effect as bandicoot deterrents.

Ticks

All mammals can be hosts to ticks. While some people mistakenly think bandicoots spread Lymes Diseases, in truth the tick which carries the disease can also use dogs, cats, foxes and even reptiles as hosts. Furthermore, the bandicoot home range is very limited, whereas introduced and domestic animals are frequently known to range over large areas.

Predators

Cats, dogs, snakes and especially foxes are all serious threats to bandicoot survival. Keep your cat and dog inside at night, or restrained at night when bandicoots are active. If we are to co-exist with, and take pleasure in our wildlife, we must make an effort to maintain habitat and endeavor to make our gardens safe refuges for the native animals which live with us in suburbia.

* Eutherian mammals are placental mammals, with the exception of monotremes and marsupials, whose young are nourished through an efficient placenta.

The reason bandicoots have 8 teats is so that they can have another litter before the one they already have is weaned and the extra teats are needed to feed all the joeys.

FREE CARING/RESCUE SUPPLIES

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



Various information brochures

Disposable cage liners

Pouch linings, hanging pouches and
assorted pouches for small mammals
(i.e. pinkie joey, possums)

Towels

Various medical supplies

SECOND HAND CAGES

Sizes - Width x Depth by height
(approx)

550 x 400 x 400

450 x 450 x 450

370 x 250 x 400

450 x 350 x 650

Also s/hand snake mesh and
shadecloth

CONTACT COL FOR MORE DETAILS

SAMPLES OF THESE ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL OUR
MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND GET TOGETHERS

HOW YOU CAN HELP

WILDLIFE CARER

DESCRIPTION : Carers are desperately needed for all species. The only qualification needed is a love of animals. Work on the front line and help save lives. Carer packs available to help with setting up

WILDLIFE RESCUE

DESCRIPTION : Rescuers are needed for all species for calls received to our 24hr hotline. Love animals but don't have enough time to care – this is the perfect job for you

HOTLINE CO ORDINATOR

DESCRIPTION : Coordinating hotline operators and organising rosters, no experience required, good organisational skills a benefit, work from home with hours to suit your lifestyle

HOTLINE OPERATOR

DESCRIPTION : Answering 24hr hotline, no experience required, work from home with flexible hours (you could answer for an hour, ½ day), good listening skills an advantage

ANIMAL RECORDS OFFICER

DESCRIPTION : Person wanted to enter records into database - keep up to date with info on the latest rescues and how animals in care are progressing. Some computer experience required, work your own hours

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS CO ORDINATOR

DESCRIPTION : Friendly, outgoing person wanted to coordinate fundraising and events to help promote FRW. No experience required but good organisational skills useful

IF YOU CAN HELP WITH ANY OF THESE POSITIONS – PLEASE GIVE THE HOTLINE A CALL OR CONTACT EITHER MYSELF (ALIX) OR ONE OF THE COMMITTEE – SEE PAGE 16 FOR CONTACT DETAILS.

OUR ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP!

OTHER WAYS TO HELP FRW

- HELP WITH SAUSAGE SIZZLES/HOT DOG STALLS OR MANNING DISPLAYS AT SHOWS/EXPOS,
 - HELP WITH RESCUES OR RELEASE SITES
- DONATE UNWANTED ITEMS AS PRIZES OR FOR USE TO CARE FOR ANIMALS
 - HELP A CARER WITH HOUSING MAINTENANCE ETC
 - SEW POUCHES OR MAKE OTHER HOUSING
- USE YOUR EXISTING TALENTS AND SKILLS TO HELP FRW IN SOME OTHER WAY

RECOVERY PLAN : SUNBATHING & PHYSIO

Story & photo : Lorelle Smith

Hi, my name is Buffy and I am a Buff Banded Rail and I'd like to tell you my story.

I was found by a very caring lady. I was flapping around her yard and had no movement in my legs. I'm not sure what happened to me - my legs just started feeling funny and they wouldn't do what I wanted them to. She rang the hotline and I was picked up by my carer.

My first nite was very scary as I am a very shy bird and try to stay away from humans. I was put into the hospital ward (spare bathroom) to see how I would go. In a couple of days I was taken to the recovery room (spare bedroom) where my carer was getting quite frustrated.

I was eating and very alert but my legs were not so good- even though I had no obvious injuries. Fortunately Wendy Adams rang to say hi and my carer told her my story. As a result of this chat a very wonderful Carol Consentino talked to my carer and it was thought I may have eaten something that had been poisoned as paralysis of the legs is the first sign.

My carer was told it may take a month for me to walk again. My daily routine begins with the curtains being opened so I can bask in the warm sun. Then it is time for my physio to start which consists of leg stretching and a gentle massage. Then it is time for a delicious brekkie of mealworms, seeds and crickets. I rest all day then have more physio before a tasty tea of fresh water snails .

Already my legs are moving so I will let you know how I am going.



INTERESTING FACT : The fingerprints of koalas are virtually indistinguishable from those of humans, so much so that they could be confused at a crime scene.

FREE WILDLIFE MAGAZINE

Don't forget to check out Issue three of the free wildlife magazine available at the below link. This issue has some great information on bats.

<http://www.wildliferescuemagazine.com/issue-three.html>

FOR SALE

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

Possum books by Sonya Stanvic

"Rescued" compiled by Jodie Blackney

Re-useable heat pads \$20

Assorted FRW t-shirts (from \$12.00)

Rescue baskets \$20

Car signs

Lawn signs

TREASURERS REPORT JULY

There is little point giving you actual figs as by the time you receive this they would be out of date, so an overview for you.

The FRW accounts balance is the lowest for a long time. This is not a matter of concern as there are several reasons:

Balances have been artificially high for some time due to granted monies that had yet to be spent.

- ✓ In October 2011 we received a grant from the Queensland Govt Building Rural Communities fund totalling almost \$10,000. This covered quite a few purchases and at time of writing is all but acquitted (finalised). It Covered – the Dr Anne Workshop and manuals, Aviaries and other animal housing, carer starter kits, heat pads.
- ✓ In late June we received notification that an application to the Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit Fund to purchase Animal Humidicribs (almost \$4,000) was successful. They have been purchased and the grant has been acquitted (finalised).

There is still equipment purchased under these grants that is yet to be allocated. If you feel that you have need of an aviary (several sizes) or a humidicrib contact your SLO or a committee member.

Not all our grant applications have been successful but the committee's efforts over the last few years have been well rewarded. A big thanks to Alix.

The new wallaby release enclosure at Bob Daisley's is nearing completion and has been paid for out of FRW funds. The Public Fund has agreed to cover most of this cost.

Since I began writing this we have received and banked the cheque for the Rotary Raffle. Over \$1,000. Thanks to the members for their support and Linden for organizing.

The overall result is that we still have more funds available than at most times in FRW history.

FRW have been running a BBQ at Bunnings about once a month. Thanks to Bunnings (venue), Brumbys (bread) and Coles (Snags and more), Sandy C and her helpers as the last one rose just on \$600 the best yet.

Membership monies are still coming in. If you haven't renewed please do so. I also encourage all members to try and obtain new members. Members do not have to be carers and I believe our newsletter alone is worth the subscription (thanks Alix).

Remember the Public Fund is pretty financial and we have asked for suggestions as to how these funds should be applied.

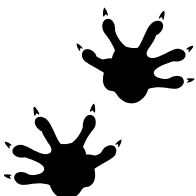
FRW figs are compiled monthly and if any member wants to view these, or has any financial questions, please contact me.

Col – Your Treasurer

INTERESTING FACT : The Great Barrier Reef is home to about 1500 species of fish, 400 types of coral, 4000 breeds of clams and other molluscs, 800 echinoderma (including sea cucumbers), 500 varieties of seaweed, 200 bird species, 1500 different sponges and 6 types of marine turtles.

WELCOME

FRW would like to thank all our members for their ongoing support which is greatly appreciated. We would also like to welcome the following new members :



Kay Kunze & Chris Barbeler
Heike, Darren, Kimba-Lee and Acadia Simmonds
Pamela Christian
Cathy Logan



HOPPY HAVEN

Works have been progressing well on “Hoppy Haven” – our new soft release enclosure being constructed at Bob Daisley’s property at Dingo Beach. This project is being funded by the Public Fund and we would like to thank them for making this possible. See below for an update on works from Bob.

After the digger had completed the trench for the no dig mesh and most of the post holes, we have had a great time and made excellent progress on Sunday. We have had regular help from Cathy & Ron and yesterday we had Col helping in the morning and Cathy and Ron turned up at mid day with many friends. As a result of this we were able to complete all the steel work for the 120 metres of fence, posts and a 2 metre high by 3 metre wide gate. We were also able to get the primary structure of the 4m x 2m lean completed.

Remaining work to do is to install a second 2m x 3m gate and post and to complete the lean too with its blue recycled corrugated iron roof and sides (courtesy of Cathy and Ron) and sandstone coloured cement paver floor. Then when the fencing poly mesh and sight screen cloth arrives (two to four weeks away from Brisbane) Hoppy Haven will be complete.

Thank you all who have suffered sweaty sore bodies, blistered hands and drinks at the Dingo pub for doing a great job on Hoppy Haven and performing works to such a high standard.

Bob

THE BUFF BANDED RAIL (*Gallirallus philippensis*)

Col Forster

The Buff-banded Rail falls into the waterbird family. It just loves clean water-bodies such as ponds, drainage channels and billabongs in which it can clean and preen its plumage. It makes widespread use of artificial wetlands like dams, sewage ponds, and swimming pools. It is a coast and sub-coastal bird, widespread in mainland Australia particularly along the eastern coast and islands. Also found on Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands, in south-east Asia, New Guinea and New Zealand.

This Rail is mostly described as secretive but not shy. It is rarely seen in the wild as it stays hidden in grassy or reedy areas, or thickly vegetated habitats near water. Commonly found on the ground, it rarely flies. Having said that they can become quite tame and bold; I have noticed them at Island resorts and around the swimming pools at several places I have lived or stayed. This behaviour is commonly reported.

I think they are a particularly handsome bird and the photo (see page 8) serves better than any description. When it walks (slowly) it flicks its short tail constantly. Downy chicks are fluffy black (see photo below).



Buff Banded Rail Chick
Photo : Alicia Carter -
Wiresnr

The Buff-banded Rail is an omnivorous scavenger which feeds on a range of terrestrial invertebrates and small vertebrates, seeds, fallen fruit and other vegetable matter, as well as carrion and refuse. It mostly feeds early in the morning and the evening.

The Buff-banded Rail is secure in its conservation status and is a most welcome visitor to our farms and gardens as a natural pest manager. Unfortunately their ground dwelling habits make them particularly susceptible to cat and dog attack.

If you are lucky enough to have one in your environment observe quietly and it will become less shy and more bold.

PHOTO : Cathi Zanevra

from left Bob, Aaron, Jodie and
Ron working as a well oiled team



MACROPODS REPORT MAY 11 - APRIL 12

These records give a guide to the number of animals in care during this time and were taken from the animal record system. Whilst every attempt has been made to reflect accurate figures, some of the 'transferred animals' may in fact also be included in the other outcome figures. We are hoping the new upgrade to the record system will fix this discrepancy.

According to these records we have had 132 animals in care:

In care: 10

Released: 48

Transferred: 43

Euthanased: 9

Died: 22



Thank you to our team of dedicated macropod rescuers and carers. These people spend an enormous amount of time, energy (including sleepless nights) and money rearing these animals.

Words : Col Forster

Photo : Kylee Gray

GOANNA!

Football, meat pies, kangaroos and Holden cars, oh, and Goannas. It just don't come much more 'stralian.



There is all sorts of talk about where the term 'Goanna' came from, most common is that it derives from *Iguana*. They are Southern Hemisphere animals and fairly widespread, but better known as Monitors or Varanids (family Varanidae) anywhere except Aus. The majority of the worlds' species are found in Australia but they are also in Asia and Africa.

They are incredibly diverse. Some species are almost amphibious, some aboreal, some live in extremely arid environments whilst others live in mangroves and swamps. Size is just as diverse from 0.2m to +2.0m with matching weight diversity.

Varanids, ah, Goannas, are almost exclusively carnivorous. Their tongue is forked and used to manipulate food but more importantly, like snakes, to convey scent particles to the Jacobsens organ.

But what you all really want to know is about their mating behaviour. So lets talk dirty; Parthenogenesis. It is something I discovered whilst looking into temperature determination of sex, a very civilized process in reptiles where they get all hot and bothered and conceive the young then sit down and discuss family planning – the sex of the offspring. Simply adjusting the temperature of incubation to achieve the desired outcome as it is incubation temperature that determines sex. With Mammals and birds by the time you have cooled down from the hot and bothered, it is too late, the sex of the offspring has been determined genetically, by chromosomes.

Ladies, say you turn up on a desert isle all by yourself and your genetic clock is ticking and there are no Y chromosomes to be had, what do you do? Well if you were a Komodo Dragon (the largest Varanid at 3+ met) it would not be a problem. First off a Y chromosome would be of no use to you and secondly you would just Parthenogenesize.

A female Komodo can lay unfertilized eggs that have either the W or Z chromosome and in Parthenogenesis these are then duplicated to WW or ZZ. A female is WZ, a male is ZZ and WW is nothing so we have male offspring only from this asexual reproduction. Next time round she can do it the old fashioned way, albeit it narrowing the gene pool some at the same time.

Now this is confirmed with Komodos but the rush is on to see what other Varanids, or in Aus Goannas, may also Parthenogenesize.

Col

FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

Life is tough for our native animals with each species facing different dangers to ensure their survival. Many sea turtles use the beaches in our area as nesting spots and, although they may not nest each year, when they are ready they often return to sites they have used previously. With only seven species of marine turtles in the world we are lucky enough to have six of these in Queensland.

Of these 6 species there are three that use the sandy beaches of the Mackay/Whitsunday region to nest. The Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the Flatback Turtle (*Natator depressus*) which is the turtle that is most commonly seen on our mainland beaches. All species of marine turtles are either vulnerable or endangered – the Green and Flatback Turtles are listed as vulnerable and the Loggerhead Turtle is listed as endangered.

A marine turtles' fight for survival begins from the moment an egg is carefully laid on our sandy shores by the mother turtle who then returns to sea. Turtle nesting season begins around mid October and continues until early/mid January. On average a Flatback female turtle will return three times at two week intervals and will lay approximately 50 eggs each time. Hatching of the eggs continues through to April but the eggs face many dangers before the young turtles emerge.

Human impact is one of the major threats the eggs will face. Our rapidly expanding population and increased tourism in our area means beachfront developments can affect the nesting sites. This expansion also means our beaches are utilised by more vehicles and people with the possibility of these activities damaging the nest, either accidentally or deliberately, also a large concern. Other dangers faced prior to hatching include domestic, feral or even native animals damaging the nest or eating the eggs and high tides swamping the nest and destroying the entire clutch.

With the eggs laid below the beach surface should they be lucky enough to hatch the tiny turtles then need to dig their way out before commencing the journey to the water's edge. During this trek the hatchlings are under threat again from domestic, feral and native animals. In addition to this some get disorientated by human lighting and head in the wrong direction often resulting in fatalities. Human lighting can also deter females from laying eggs on our beaches further reducing our turtle numbers.

Reaching the ocean provides no sanctuary for the hatchlings. Many more dangers await them including being food for other marine life, injuries from boats, dangers from fishing nets and the possibility of eating a plastic bag or other marine debris and dying. In addition to these concerns our extreme weather conditions, such as cyclones, can cause damage to feeding grounds reducing the food available to the turtles.

Sea turtles can live for up to 100 years but old age is not the cause of most turtle deaths. We are – humans and our influence. So here are a few tips on how you can help ensure the survival of these beautiful creatures :

- Take your litter home or place in a rubbish bin.
- Next time you go for a walk on one of our beaches take something to collect rubbish and help clean up some of the threats
- Take care of fishing equipment and do not leave fishing line, nets, lures, hooks or other items on our beaches.
- Don't drive vehicles on our beaches
- When boating be on the lookout for turtles and other marine life and keep your distance
- Keep pets under control and do not allow them to roam in areas turtles may nest

A Green Sea Turtle named Wray caught in a crab pot – see page 3 for how Wray was rescued and released.

Photo : John Whatmough



The temperature of the turtle nest determines the sex of the young turtle – cooler temperatures produce males while warmer temperature produce female hatchlings – the perfect temperature will produce 50/50 male/female. Research to date shows that turtles nests on our mainland beaches produce mainly female turtles while preliminary research on nests on off shore islands has shown that they produce mainly male offspring

THE REWARDING SIDE OF CARING

It is getting towards the end of June 2012 and I thought I would like to write a little story about how rewarding the last five weeks have been with my two baby female Agile Wallabies.

A wonderful family from the Airlie area rang the Fauna Rescue Hotline to say they had found a little wallaby being shaken in the mouth of their neighbours' dog. They rescued her, kept her warm (vital to help her survive) and, as I happened to be on call that night and I mainly care for wallabies, they brought her to me. It was so sad to see this little one – no mum, covered (I mean covered) with ticks and lice and very obviously terrified into an appearance of numbness.

Our wonderful Vet discovered that Charlotte (who was named by her rescuers) had a broken pelvis. As other carers have had success with the healing of a broken pelvis we decided to give her a chance. The days passed while she lay in her hanging bag, motionless, staring at the world and she had to be forced to have a bottle of special wally milk.

As more time passed I guess her bruising eased and she started to show signs of trust and interest in what was around her. Her poos went from black and smelly to "beautiful" little pellets. She started nibbling at grass pieces in her bag and had improved heaps.

I think it's the trust that I find most rewarding in caring for them. After two weeks she was healing, responding to affection and showing lots of trust. Stroking her was now ok. I guess when you've had hundreds of ticks & lice on your tiny body it takes a while to be able to feel a kind movement on your skin. She had begun moving around her hanging bed and obviously was understanding that her healing is happening. They know everything – I know that – Nature is amazing.

What a busy two weeks it was. The day after "Charlotte" came into care another caring family brought another tiny little 840g female Agile Wallaby to me who we named Evie. Evie was on their property without a mum and had green ants all around her eyes. She needed them to be bathed & a special ointment from the Vet put in each day.

At the end of two weeks she too was so much better and hopefully her eyesight has not been affected and she was rescued in time.

They are both so cute and gorgeous. After 5 weeks Charlotte is this interesting, exited little wallaby. She has cleverly watched me all these weeks from her bag and knows that standing in the kitchen and tugging on my legs results in a yummy piece of sweet potato being put in her hands. She runs and runs and loves roaming my small house most of the night. You can see her thinking "she's not getting me in a bag ever again!!".

Evie has had a very sick tummy since she came to me but after a number of different treatments the darling little thing has "come good". She is pelleting, getting a little braver and putting on some weight. Life is looking good for Evie too.

To the families who rescued these helpless little joeys – THANK YOU from both Charlotte and Evie.

Barb McLennan

HOW DO YOU RESCUE A WHALE?

With the onset of winter Humpback Whales begin their migration from Antarctica heading north to the tropical waters off the east coast of Australia to mate and give birth to their young. For those lucky enough to see these magnificent creatures playing in the ocean with their calves it is a very special experience.

Mother whales are very protective of their babies and the sight of a young calf circling the motionless body of its mother prompted a call to the FRW Hotline from a concerned member of the public. With the thought "how do you rescue a whale?" running through our dedicated volunteers head some quick research was done.

All turned out well when it was found that Mum was just having a nap while her young calf enjoyed playing in the warm Whitsunday sunshine!



WENDY WALLABY'S FUN PAGE

See next page for
answers

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

Can you find the following insects. They might be forwards, backwards or diagonally.

**GRASSHOPPER, CICADA, ANT, DRAGONFLY,
SCORPION, CENTIPEDE, CRICKET,
BUTTERFLY, WASP, BEE, MOTH, BEETLE,
SPIDER, TICK, FLEA, FLY, EARWIG, LICE,
BUG**



WHAT AM I?

I hatch from an egg (and sometimes my mum helps me by gently cracking the egg)

I can live for up to 2 years without eating

I can run at speeds of up to 28 mph

I first appeared on earth around 240 million years ago (when the dinosaurs lived)

My eyes reflect light so I can see at night

When it is hot I open my mouth to cool down

I am closely related to both birds and dinosaurs

A group of geese is called a gaggle – but can you match the following animals with their groups

Pod	Lizards
Murder	Owls
Lounge	Crows
Army	Pelicans
Parliament	Kangaroos or wallabies
Squadron	Dolphins
Mob	Jellyfish
Squabble	Locusts
Circus	Seagulls
Plague	Puffins
Smack	Ants or frogs

FRW NOTICEBOARD

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

DATE	EVENT	WHERE	MORE INFO
Thursday mornings and 3 rd Saturday of each month	Volunteer for Landcare Activities	Various locations	Contact WCL - Christine Peterson 4945 0267 for details
7 & *8 th September 2012	Talking Wildlife Conference	Bardon, Qld	http://www.wildlife.org.au/talkingwildlife
29 th September, 2012	FRW New Members Orientation Workshop	QPWS	frwsecretary@gmail.com or contact one of our committee
14 th October, 2012	Dr Peggy Rismiller – Echinda Workshop	Sunshine Coast	Contact education@wilvos.org.au to book or for further details

WENDY WALLABYS' FUN PAGE ANSWERS

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

Pod	Dolphins
Murder	Crows
Lounge	Lizards
Army	Ants or frogs
Parliament	Owls
Squadron	Pelicans
Mob	Kangaroos & wallabies
Squabble	Seagulls
Circus	Puffins
Plague	Locusts
Smack	Jellyfish

WHAT AM I? - I AM A CROCODILE

Photo : science.howstuffworks.com.

INTERESTING FACT : A transparent third eyelid allows saltwater crocodiles to see as well underwater as humans do on land.





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

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

FRW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS/SPECIES LIASON OFFICERS	WHITSUNDAY SHIRE COUNCIL
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Vice President – Lola Mudie (also Membership & Merchandising Officer) Phone : 4946 1281 Email : melo@mackay.net.au	Proserpine Rock Wallaby SLO – Sandy Cleeland Phone : 4947 3324 Email : sandy.cleeland@optusnet.com.au	ALL SNAKES Peter Basso (fee charged) 0439 478 140 Kylee Gray (fee charged) 0424 456 254
Treasurer – Col Forster Phone : 4946 1713 0439 762 130 Email : col_forfrw@yahoo.com.au	Bat SLO – Alix Cunningham Phone : 4959 1901 0459 415 590 Email : frwsecretary@gmail.com	VETERINARY SURGERIES 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 Proserpine Veterinary Surgery Dr Faye McPherson 11 Waite Street, Proserpine 4945 1878
FRW COMMITTEE MEMBERS Linden Baker Phone : 4946 1198 Email : james.chisolm@bigpond.com	Possum & Glider SLO – Barbara Adamson Phone : 4946 7572 0458 525 700 Email : barbaraadamson@bigpond.com	
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	FRW Animal Records http://www.frw.org.au/AnimalRecords/AnimalRecords.php	
NON COMMITTEE POSITIONS/SPECIES LIASON OFFICERS	QPWS Jubilee Pocket 4967 7355	RSPCA MACKAY 1300 852 188
Koalas/Birds/Raptors/Echidna SLO & Hotline Co-ordinator – Jacqui Webb Phone : 4947 3308 0427 176 966 Email : Jacqui.webb@bigpond.com	DERM/EPA Hotline – 1300 130 372	RSPCA HOTLINE (INCLUDING MARINE STRANDINGS) 1300 ANIMAL (264 625)
Koalas/Reptiles/Small Mammals SLO & Food Supplies – Linden Baker Phone : 4946 1198 Email : james.chisolm@bigpond.com	KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST FRW NEWS ON FACEBOOK FRW Facebook http://www.facebook.com/pages/FAUNA-RESCUE-WHITSUNDAYS-ASSOCIATION-INC/187303798354	POLICE Whitsunday 4948 8888 (24 hours) Proserpine 4945 1333 Bowen 4761 3500 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

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.

TO:

**Fauna Rescue Whitsundays
Association Inc.**



HOTLINE :4947 3389

RETURN ADDRESS :

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

