

FAUNA RESCUE
WHITSUNDAYS



Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

P.O. Box 806, Cannonvale 4802

Hotline : 07 4947 3389 – ABN 60 931 156 282

NEWSLETTER 65 DECEMBER 2012



Photo : Linden Baker

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

**FAUNA RESCUE WHITSUNDAYS HOPES ALL OUR
MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS HAD A SAFE,
RELAXING AND ENJOYABLE CHRISTMAS AND NEW
YEAR**

ROTARY RAFFLE

The Rotary Raffle is Fauna Rescue's most profitable fundraiser for the year. Ticket sales for this annual event will start in early January with some fantastic prizes on offer – see next page for details.

Every dollar we make from ticket sales remains with FRW. With other organisations also issued with tickets we really need to sell as many as possible to help raise funds for our animals.

If you would like to purchase tickets or help with ticket sales please contact Linden on 0429 651 962 or email her on james.chisholm@bigpond.com



Mr (not so) Grumpy.
PHOTO : Di Jessop

THE USE OF HAND PUPPETS

Col Forster

Scepticism can be a healthy thing and if it is I should live forever!

The use of hand puppets when feeding young native animals is recommended by many in our field but do they work? I doubt that there is conclusive proof that they work in all cases. Do they work in some – absolutely! My proof:

Di took in a just fledging Pee Wee, it was unharmed but hungry. She tried to get it to feed with no success. It showed no interest at all to the extent that it got called Mr Grumpy. She went and put a black and white striped sock on her hand and tried again.

As soon as the gloved hand approached from above the bird opened its mouth and asked to be fed with a typical call. This was the antithesis of the bird's behaviour just moments before. Nothing could be simpler than feeding this bird with the aid of the most basic hand puppet.

So, do hand puppets work in all cases? Who knows but I can say that they definitely work in some and it would be fair to extend this and say that they probably reduce stress and imprinting in many, many more. Remembering that stress is a major problem when dealing with wildlife, and imprinting an issue with successful release give some thought to the use of puppets.

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

Rotary Club of Airlie Beach Inc. COMMUNITY RAFFLE



2013

**12 Prizes Value
Over \$43,000!!**

Authorised by The Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation. Licence No. 30551

★ 1ST PRIZE ★

Flight Centre

FANTASTIC EUROPEAN HOLIDAY FOR 2 PEOPLE

Leaving Brisbane International Airport to Singapore for 3 days, visit Chinatown and ride a rickshaw, meet the animals at Singapore Zoo and step over to Sentosa Island and its many attractions. Do not forget the shopping and fabulous food.

Then on to London for 2 days, experience the changing guard at Buckingham Palace, hear Big Ben chime on the hour while on the City Sightseeing Tour.

Have your photo taken with some of the most interesting people who have ever lived at Madame Tussauds and spend a night at the opera. Time for your holiday to begin with a 12 Day Tour, "The Best of Britain and Ireland" with COSMOS.

Visit these wonderful places, meet the people and share in the history. This is one of several fabulous European holidays offered by Flight Centre Whitsundays. (Redeemable at Flight Centre Whitsundays only. Based on current prices and available Tour Operators. Valid until June 2014.)



SINGAPORE



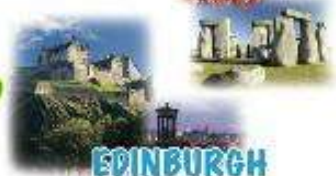
CHINATOWN



LONDON



IRELAND



EDINBURGH

Value - \$15000!!!

FLIGHT CENTRE
Unbeatable

2nd Prize

\$10,000

CASH



3rd Prize Harvey Norman

\$5000 GIFT VOUCHER
with Harvey Norman (Cannovale Stores only). You have a choice of electrical or furniture from their large range of quality products. (Valid until June 2014)

4th Prize

Charter Yachts AUSTRALIA

5 Nights Onboard Venture 35 Foot Power Cat. "Divine" Cruise the beautiful Whitsundays with your friends. (Comfortable for 4-6 PMX with 4 Cabins and 2 Bathrooms) Not valid for travel during school holidays or peak seasons (Valid until June 2014)

5th & 6th Prizes - coles

\$2000 Shopping Voucher for Both Prizes At The Local Cannovale Coles Supermarket
(Valid until June 2014)

7th Prize

Daydream Island Resort & Spa
2 Nights for 2 adults. Includes buffet breakfast daily and transfers from Abel Point Marina, courtesy of Cruise Whitsundays
(Valid until June 2014)



8th Prize Air Whitsunday

Land on the calm waters of Hardy Reef, experience the abundance of marine life and ancient coral gardens while snorkelling or through the glass bottom boat. Enjoy a light snack before your pilot flies you away to Whitehaven Beach for a picnic and sparkling wine. A perfect way for 2 people to enjoy some of the wonders of the magnificent Whitsundays. (Valid until June 2014)

9th Prize - Sea Fever Sport Fishing

Sea Fever Sport Fishing Whitsundays. Give yourself and a friend the best opportunity of catching that big fish you have always dreamt about! The prize includes a fishing trip for 2 people to the Great Barrier Reef with Sea Fever. (Shared Charter) (Valid until June 2014)

10th Prize - Cruise Whitsunday

"Great Barrier Reef Adventure" for 2 adults & up to 3 children. & once in a lifetime experience for your family. (Valid until June 2014)



11th Prize - Airlie Beach Hotel

What a way to spend a beautiful weekend for 2 people. Includes 3 nights with breakfast (Valid until June 2014)

12th Prize - Whitsunday Fishing World

\$500 Gift Voucher at Whitsunday Fishing World. Take the opportunity to chat to the locals at WFW who'll get you up with the right gear. (Valid until June 2014)



Winners notified by Certified Mail
Closing Date: 24 May 2013 Drawn 13 June 2013

ROTARY ORGANISER - TIM ARLAND
PH. 4946 7064 Mob: 0419 715925

All Rotary Club of Airlie Beach Inc. projects would not be possible without funds raised by our Whitsundays - Whitsunday Region Telephone and Business Guide

THANK YOU

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

Coles Cannonvale for donations of fresh fruit & vegies for animals in care and sausages for
our Bunnings sausage sizzles

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for the use of their offices for our meetings and their
assistance with our native animals

The Men's Shed for constructing homes for our possums and bats and **Ray White Whitsunday**
for donating the materials

Bunnings for hosting our monthly BBQ (and our hardworking volunteers for their time)

Jason Costigan MP for the printing of our newsletter

All those who donated prizes for our Xmas Raffle :



**Ono's Liquor, Woolworths, Cannonvale Mitre 10, Auto Pro,
Beef Producers, Lola Mudie (Nutrimetics), Bunnings, Coles,
Harvey Norman, Plants Whitsunday, Amcal Pharmacy, Reef
Gateway Hotel, Whitsunday Cranes, Supercheap Auto, Di
Jessop**

**And all those who helped sell raffle tickets :
Monika Gabor, Sheena Barrett, Barb Adamson, Barb
McLennan, Linden Baker, Carole Mulholland, Lorelle &
Duncan Smith, Leigh Skead, Cathy Shoesmith, Gerry
O'Connor, Tahlia Adamson, Di Jessop, Deb Henshall, Suzette
Pelt, Leonie Bartlem, Jean Neal,, Alana & Rod
Hollingsworth, Col Forster, Sunny, Maren Matthews, Sew &
Save and Plants Whitsunday**

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LUCKY WINNERS

"SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED FRW AND OUR WILDLIFE"

WELCOME

Fauna Rescue Whitsundays would like to
thank all our members for their ongoing support and welcome the following new members

Ashleigh Kelly
Gil Ireland

Elizabeth & Dean Harrison
Chrissy Nixon

Ecobarge
Sue Shubert





SAVE A LIFE

Sandy Cleeland

The other day when I was driving along Conway Rd a waste truck drove past me. I noticed to my dismay a lot of plastic bags almost floating out of the truck like little kites. Even way out in the bush you can see plastic bags high up in trees blown then entangled to be blown again with the next strong gust.

It reminded me of what my sister Liz always said "When you finish with any plastic bag whether tiny or extra large tie the damn thing in a knot so when it is put out in the rubbish it is less inclined to fly away." You just need to go to any refuse dump to see all the plastic blown against wire fences. Sheena said that in Ireland they call those flyaway bags "witches knickers"

A little tip that I hope can be passed around and acted upon for a better, safer, cleaner, environment especially for the poor old turtles who think they are jelly fish.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Let me introduce myself as your new Treasurer. I have lived in the Whitsundays for the past 7 years with my husband, Thomas, and our kids, Jeffrey (5) and Tommy (2 and a half). I always had a passion to save injured and orphaned animals.

For me (with my European background) being part of Fauna Rescue Whitsundays and helping to save Australian native wildlife is a dream that became true. Currently I am studying Accounting/Bookkeeping and I am looking forward to giving as much help to FRW as I can.

As a treasurer I prepare a statement of income and expenses every month. If anyone would like to see these figures, please contact me and I can send copies via e-mail or show you the records.

If you have any questions or concerns about FRW financial issues, please don't hesitate to ask me. I will be happy to answer all of your questions. You can contact me by e-mail at miller_monika@yahoo.com, by phone: 07-4946-1732 and 0439-382-366 or you can send a letter to

Fauna Rescue Whitsundays

Treasurer

PO Box 806

Cannonvale, QLD 4802

I hope all FRW members and their families had a very happy and wonderful Christmas!

Yours Sincerely

Monika Gabor, Treasurer



Several years ago Monika and her husband rescued a young echidna, a puggle, and brought it to me for rehab. I aptly named the puggle Thomas and he was successfully reared and released. I would like to think that this incident encouraged Monika to join us.

Since our first meeting Monika has also helped with the care of some of our baby birds. It is great to have Monika on board as Treasurer and we look forward to working with her.

JACQUI WEBB

DOGGIE TRAVELLER - A WALK IN SPRINGTIME

Celia A. Richards

It was a peaceful morning as the sun teased away the night time clouds while we walked enjoying the cool comfort before the heat of the day set in with sweltering humidity. Like her master, Nina walked proud in a confident stride with her traveller mimicking her missing master's relaxing habit. Yet, her traveller of choice was not of the fluid kind being a slurp of beer. But of equal importance – a soggy meaty bone!

As the three of us sauntered slowly stopping every now and again for a chew on the bone and a sniff investigating information left behind by the animals of the night. I had time to think—deliberate on troublesome thoughts invading the calm of my mind in which I so dearly sought.

Visions of baby brown northern bandicoots (Australian marsupials) preoccupied my mind. I visualised a young joey found lying abandoned on the ground a few days earlier while caring for a neighbour's animals. He was named Jacob. Everything has a name, from the wiggly worm to the threatening cyclones which torment our shores in the wet season. Everything has a place and everything has a unique environmental job to do in our corner of the world in maintaining the precarious status quo.



On active advice it was suggested to put the little joey back on the ground where we had found him previously. It was stated that they frequently fall from their mother's pouches in eagerness to explore their environment prematurely.

Returning to the site of abandonment we tried to place the little joey somewhere safe in the path of where we thought the little soul would be found by his mother. But to no avail. Every time we put him down he hopped and sniffed his way back to my ankles and tumbled down against my foot with backside high in the air and nose to ground.

Eventually we saw a little burrow (hole) – so did Jacob. Without hesitation he made a beeline towards safety down, down he went never to be seen again. So sad. It was this sadness which troubled my mind hoping he was safe and well to enjoy the ever changing Australian Bush.



Spring is an amazing time of year, with baby this and baby that everywhere, chirping, squeaking, and stumbling around, while learning by trial and error. Haphazardly these diverse young explore their way into survival and an exciting existence.

One of my favourite memories was the day a little immature red tailed hawk flew the wrong way into the patio window. Outside I ran beating the cat to the stunned bird. I picked him up and he automatically wrapped his long talons around my finger tightly. He was such an adorable sight with baggy white trousers hanging half way down his skinny legs, big wide alert eyes and blood smudged blatantly across his cheeks —proof of his first kill. He was not at all perturbed by my presence as I gently put him outside on the roof. Instinct encouraged him towards the gutter and soon he was off flying back to the tree and safety away from frustrated cat's eyes and chattering.

Brought back to reality by a tug on the leash by my other dog's inherent desire to chase all that moves I smile as two wallabies hop passed with long strides just a few metres away. In temptation they abruptly stop behind a barrier of trees for a nibble of fresh moist grass. Lorikeets swoop down noisy in mid conversation as they hurry on by. Nina is not disturbed by all the commotion. She has her traveller. She is well familiarised with all that Australia's spring offers. She has her smells, her walk, canine company, and most of all her traveller—that all important juicy bone. What more could a dog want?

(Images courtesy of Wiki Commons and Dreamtime Stock Photos)

- Fig1. Northern Brown Bandicoot (joey)
- Fig 2. Immature Chicken Hawk or Red Tailed Hawk
- Fig 3. Rainbow lorikeets



DIZZY LIZZY UPDATE

Great news, Dizzy Lizzy is dizzy no more! It's been three months now since he/she? came into care. Another car hit victim for those that didn't see my previous story.

First day in care I thought would be his last, a very sick echidna. He had a knock to the head which affected his brain making it very difficult for him to walk. There was lots of rolling over and hesitant steps as he tried to make his legs do what he wanted them too, the message from his brain just wasn't getting through.

Even eating took a few weeks to get right but he did get it right eventually. A sloppy mix of mince, bran and olive oil plus a few extras was soon being slurped down. It was amazing watching him eat with his big long tongue licking up his dinner. He also had a large termite mound in his tank full of termites that he regularly attacked.

It probably took about 6 weeks before he showed any real improvement and then it was very slow improvement. Every couple of weeks I'd take him out on the grass to check his progress, then back to the tank he'd go for more rest. But as I said the day did finally come and it was great to see him wander off into the bush walking perfectly normally.

INTERESTING FACT : Mosquitoes are responsible for more deaths than any other creature in the world!

CHANGING ATTITUDES

SOURCE : Townsville Bulletin

Flying foxes are no longer public enemy No.1 in Charters Towers, with the town's council now embracing bats instead of wanting to shoot them. Charters Towers Regional Council is pushing ahead with plans to establish a wildlife sanctuary 3km away from its CBD. It hopes this will attract the large colony of flying foxes that has taken up permanent residence in the park in the middle of the town.

At a potential cost of \$1.5 million over three years, the sanctuary is to include a wildlife hospital, where sick and injured bats can be treated, and walking tracks. Instead of viewing the endangered animals as a menace to residents, who have complained for years of the smell and noise from the colony - which at times has numbered 50,000 - the council is now even considering turning the bats into a tourist attraction. It is a complete u-turn from the council's previous policy of trying to cull the noisy winged creatures that have irritated residents for more than a decade.

Acting Mayor Wally Brewer, who admitted he was one of the many residents who originally wanted to see the bats shot, said he had grown to understand the importance of keeping flying foxes alive. "If we went and shot 40,000 bats, we're probably looking at \$120,000 in costs just for the ammunition alone," he said. "I don't think people find that acceptable any more, though - the wholesale slaughter of animals."

The council is drawing up concept plans for its wildlife sanctuary, which is to be located near Gladstone Creek and modelled on the success of Yarra Bend Park, to where Melbourne City Council successfully relocated bats away from its heritage-listed Botanic Gardens in 2003. Cr Brewer hoped the proposed wildlife hospital would be used by James Cook University to educate veterinary science students in the treatment of sick and injured wildlife. "We will have something that is sadly lacking here, and that's somewhere where people can take injured wildlife, where they can be housed and looked after," Cr Brewer said. "It will include bats. "As much as I did want to shoot them, I don't feel that way any more."

The council has spent more than \$250,000 on removing flying foxes from its 130-year-old Lissner Park over the years, including mustering the animals using a helicopter, using shotguns loaded with pyrotechnic cartridges, and even helium balloons painted with images of hawks to scare them away, but they have had at best limited success.

Cr Brewer said there was scope for turning the flying foxes into a tourist attraction, if the sanctuary idea worked. North Queensland Wildlife Carers bat carer Dominique Thiriet applauded the council for its new approach to flying fox management. "All of the attempts to remove flying foxes have been quite cruel and very costly, and I think its good news that they're looking at other options," she said

BUMPER STICKERS

Col Forster

One of our recent grant successes included funding for bumper stickers. I did a fill-in job the other day driving one of the local water taxis and there, in a position of prominence, the FRW Hotline details courtesy of a bumper sticker. It is great to see them penetrating the local community.

We still have plenty more. If you have a place for one, or know someone that does, contact a committee member or pick a few up at the next FRW event.

HOMELESS POSSUMS

Many of the possums we care for and set free are released with their own possum box. Why do we do this? Our possums like to live in hollows in trees but it can take between 50 and 100 years for a tree to develop a suitable hollow. As many of these old trees are felled (often to accommodate our rapidly expanding population) a housing shortage is created.

With possums being territorial the locals are not going to welcome a newcomer into their home – in rare instances death can result from fierce disputes over housing! By providing a possum box for the newly released possum to live in we can help prevent fights of this sort and provide a safe place for it to retreat to if necessary. When a possum in care is ready to leave the pouch it is provided with a box of its own – this same box is used at the release site ensuring that the possum feels secure.

The boxes FRW use for our possums are normally made and donated by Proserpine High School but with school holidays upon us stocks were running low. After hearing of our shortage The Men's Shed kindly offered to make us 6 more possum boxes with Ray White Real Estate kindly donating the materials. The boxes were presented to Barb Adamson and FRW would like to thank both The Men's Shed and Ray White for helping with this community project.

FRW hope to place 5 of the new boxes in the large trees at Dingo Beach Park to help house some of the local possums. It has been reported that possums and their babies are living in rubbish bins in the area as more of the trees they rely on for housing are chopped down. The possums are moved on each morning by the cleaners and are getting sick from the unhygienic living conditions and eating "human" food when natural food sources are scarce. By providing the boxes we hope to give them a safe home resulting in a healthier environment for us all.



Receiving our new possums boxes
Rear from left to right : Steve Halter (The Men's Shed), Mark Beale (Ray White), Peter Tyquin (The Men's Shed) and Bernie Woods (Ray White). Front : Barb Adamson and Ashton (one of our baby possums who will be in care for another 5 months).

PRESIDENTS REPORT JAN 13

Happy New Year! I trust you all had a wonderful festive season and the New Year will see you achieve all that you wish for.

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to our committee and Barb A who undertook the preparations for the Christmas raffle as well as volunteers who helped on the day. This turned out to be a success yet again with over \$2000 in ticket sales and donations.

Many thanks also to Lorelle and Duncan for taking over the organisation of our Bunnings Sausage Sizzles whilst Sandy was away. I don't have the figures raised for this on hand but know they have raised more money for FRW each month.

Speaking of fundraising Linden is once again organising the Rotary Raffle which has some amazing prizes and all proceeds of tickets sold by FRW members go directly to FRW. So if you are able to help our wildlife by selling some raffle tickets please contact Linden to order a book or two.

It seems we have had a relatively quiet Christmas and New Year as far as rescues go. Normally we have had a large amount of baby animals passing through our doors as well as a higher number of adult animals in trouble. We can only hope this is due to a good wet season last year, creating plentiful food and water sources for all our critters to thrive.

However, the current heat wave that seems to be occurring across most of Australia is creating a huge problem for many animals. For instance, the Flying Fox colony in Bomaderry Creek near Nowra, NSW, with at least 1000 animals of the 11,500 colony being found dead due to the excessive heat wave ☹. If you or your friends are living somewhere suffering from these extreme heat waves, please help our wildlife by placing shallow dishes of fresh water daily in shaded areas around your property.



We really feel for those, humans and animals, who have lost homes in the recent bush fires. There are many places available to donate to help both people and critters, for example :

www.redcross.org.au/Tasmanian-bushfires-appeal-2013.aspx

www.rspca.org.au

www.wildlifevictoria.org.au

www.nwc.org.au

www.faunarescue.org.au

www.wawrc.org.au

My trip to Adelaide was lovely, catching up with family and friends. Travelling and staying between Adelaide, the Adelaide Hills and Goolwa we experienced a touch of SA's wildlife including Western Grey Kangaroos and quite a few species of birds. However, it did make me realize just how lucky we are here in the Whitsundays having so many species of unique wildlife living in our "backyards". We are also so lucky not to be living directly in some of those areas being affected by bushfires and losing our wonderful wildlife.

One of the big issues at the moment seems to be Flying Foxes and the culling of them. Unfortunately, due to habitat destruction these adorable animals are being pushed closer and closer to human habitation to find food and shelter.

There is some preconceived idea in Queensland and even within our own community here that the flying foxes are disease ridden vermin, far from the truth! Our Flying Foxes play a very important role in pollination and seed dispersal of many of our native eucalypts and rainforest plants.

Qld Health advises that there is no evidence of spread of Hendra virus from Flying Foxes to humans or from the environment to humans. More information on Living with Flying Foxes and Hendra Virus can be sourced from such sites as :

www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/

www.daft.qld.gov.au/4790_15094.htm

www.qldhealth.qld.gov.au/communicablediseases/hendra-fastfacts.au



PRESIDENTS REPORT JAN 13

cont'd

We have been informed by Annette Colling, the RSPCA QLD's Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Coordinator, that they have been advised by EHP-Qld Marine Parks that there may be an opportunity for volunteers in the Great Barrier Reef area of North Qld to receive marine animal and live turtle strandings training in the near future. This training would be provided so that you could assist in marine animal rescues and transport in your area if required. Therefore, we do need expressions of interest at this stage. If you are interested in this training please advise Alix as we need to give them numbers of possible attendees ASAP to secure training for our area.

It is imperative we continue to help and support our wildlife here, enabling future generations to enjoy and experience them and their habitats. We need to continue our education programmes in our schools and community, encouraging others to also support them. We also need to ensure that we all keep up to date with all the latest techniques and information on wildlife rehabilitation.

This year we plan to continue to support our carers and members with more training and continue to assist with facilities for wildlife, vet bills and rebates on animal food expenses. If you do have any queries please feel free to contact one of our committee members or your Species Liaison Officer for more details.

Jacqui Webb

FREE CARING & RESCUE SUPPLIES

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

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

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 shade cloth

CONTACT COL FOR MORE DETAILS

If you have any useful items related to rescuing or caring for wildlife to either give away or sell contact Lola Mudie on 07 4946 1281 or melo@mackay.net.au

FOR SALE



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

MY CRITTERS

Linden Baker

I've been trying to think of an article to write on some interesting native animal then thought I'd do rats, mice and bugs instead. Why? Well without these tasty morsels many of the diets for our animals in care would not be adequate. So for those that don't know – I breed them. My garage is home to crickets, mealworms, cockroaches and worms which I breed and will give to carers needing food. Under my house I have rats and mice (don't ask me how many but its well over the two hundred mark). These I sell to carers at a cheap rate to try to cover my costs.

So what's involved in doing this? Heaps! At least an hour every day with a couple of three hour stints amongst it.

Rats and mice, of course, need fresh water and food each day so that is job one. Luckily my son Riley works at Coles who are kind enough to donate throw away vegies. So its pellets, seeds and whatever vegies I have for their breaky. My cages have mesh bottoms so poo drops through but without a solid base to walk on rats and mice will develop foot problems so a couple of newspapers thrown in each day (after the old ones are removed) prevent this and they make themselves nice comfy beds. I have plastic hammocks under the cages that catch all the waste and direct it to big plastic tubs which are emptied each day (my fruit trees love this).

Then it's time to sort them. With the mesh bases, any babies that are born drop through so I need to check for pregnant females daily and move these to safer cages to give birth. It also prevents other rats digging in and eating the babies as they are born. Most rats are very protective of newborns but others just see them as a snack. It is a never ending job - preggy mums out, mums with bigger babies back in.

So the rats are done, then it's the mice, they are a little different to breed but basically the same. So feed, water, clean and sort.

Bugs are next. Crickets need rolled oats or dry cat food daily and some fresh vegies, usually carrots but they love oranges as well. I have them in a large 1.5 mt fish tank with potting mix up one end and egg cartons everywhere else. They live in the cartons and they lay eggs in the potting mix which needs to be kept moist to stop the eggs drying out so that gets a daily quick spray with water.

Cockroaches are next, they are the easiest as they rarely need cleaning as they like living amongst old food and vegetable matter, so it's just throw in some vegies and pellets and close the lid. Everyone asks me "aren't you worried if that they will escape" The answer is no, if they get out all they want is back in. they like their nest. I have more trouble keeping the other cockroaches out. They want in!

Worms are also easy, I only have a small amount at present but I'm trying to increase numbers. Just throw in some vegies and job done.

Mealworms are the last job - they are the most time consuming as I have so many (thousands). They all need sliced carrots for moisture daily and to be checked if they need their bran changed or topped up. The adult stage is a beetle so I have about 100 of these kept separately in a tub living in bran both as a food source and as somewhere to lay their eggs. Every 10 days they need to be removed (by sieving) and put in a fresh container of bran. The old bran contains the eggs which hatch after a week or two.

So you can imagine using this process I have heaps of containers of mealworms at different stages of growth. The babies are tiny when hatched but grow very fast. As they get bigger they eat all the bran so all that is left is waste which is sieved off and they are given fresh bran. When the mealworms are mature, they turn into a pupae which will then develop into a beetle. Before they pupate I put them in clean bran in the fridge, this halts their growth and they are ready for eating at this stage. They can be kept in the fridge for 6 weeks but need to come out every 2 weeks for a day to warm up and have a feed.

So that's how my mornings begin, then its food for any animals I have in care, food for me then usually a crazy dash to get ready for work!

Baby rats – Linden Baker



Thank you Linden for all the time and effort you put into ensuring our native wildlife have the best possible menu to choose from!

POSSUM & GLIDER REPORT

OCT/NOV 12

Lots to report this month with possums in care in the following places ;

Lorelle has 2 Miranda has 1 Brittney has 1 Barb has 2

Miss Pricilla is at Jenny's place having a soft release at the moment.

Sadly I have had to have 3 babies euthanized and 1 old man as well.

I had a call from Dingo Beach saying as the trees get chopped down the possums and their babies are living in the council rubbish bins. This is not a good situation and it was decided to install six possum boxes in the beach park at Dingo Beach so the possums had suitable housing available to use.



Photo : Barb Adamson

Have had lots of calls of possums in peoples' houses and I thank Kylee Gray for her help with some of this stuff.

We are down to 1 possum box and the school finished for the year so I asked the Men's Shed Whitsunday if they would like the project for now as supply is urgent to keep animals safe and help people get them out into the trees. The Men's Shed said yes. Col dropped some ply off, also Ray White has donated more ply and FRW has agreed this time to buy hinges and paint. We will look for more sponsors of materials as we go along.

I will take possession of the first 6 boxes next Tuesday so a huge thank you to them. We will do a thank you in the papers.

Barb Adamson SLO

RESCUE, REHABILITATION & RELEASE

Drawing : animals.howstuffworks.com

Unfortunately not all the animals we care for make it back to their homes in the wild which makes it so much more rewarding every time you release an animal you have cared for. We take many calls to our hotline with birds being the most common call. Lorelle recently had a call from a member of the public about a kookaburra at Strathdickie with an injured wing. Many injured wings turn out to be broken resulting in the animals having to be put down but "Kooka" was lucky. A trip to Dr Julie Ruddell found that Kooka's wing wasn't broken and it was strapped to prevent movement with instructions to keep him quiet while it healed.

Moving into the confined area of the bathroom at Lorelle's Kooka began his rehabilitation. While refusing to catch food himself he was happy to be hand fed and progressed well. Intelligent and alert he was quite docile for the first few days but as he started to feel better he became cranky wanting to be back in the wild where he belonged rather than in the care of a human. Despite managing to remove his dressing on two occasions his wing healed well and within a fortnight he was ready for release.

Throughout his stay the caller, Scott, who had rescued Kooka called on a regular basis for progress reports and was very excited to hear that he was ready to go home. When asked if he would like to be present for the release Scott jumped at the chance to see a happy ending for the bird he had rescued. After a short car trip to where he had been found in Strathdickie Kooka was set free. Taking to the air immediately he flew straight to the nearest tree and perched gazing out around the home he had missed so much. A very satisfying moment for both Lorelle and Scott knowing they had helped ensure this birds survival.



HENDRA - THE GOOD NEWS

It has now been nearly 20 years since the discovery of the Hendra virus in 1994 and the realisation that humans could catch and die from Hendra after being in contact with infected horses. While our native flying foxes have been identified as a natural host for the Hendra virus the exact method of transmission to horses is still not known. It is generally thought that horses catch Hendra from ingesting food or water which has been contaminated by flying fox waste products such as urine, faeces, spats and birthing fluids. Humans become infected after contact with the blood or bodily fluids of horses infected with Hendra – this can also be transmitted thru contact with these fluids after the death of the sick animals.

Though out the years of research into Hendra we have learned a lot but many questions still remain unanswered. However as our understanding increases we are able to implement new techniques to help combat the spread of the virus. We now know horses (and their food and water) should be kept away from fruiting or flowering trees which flying foxes feed in. Our knowledge has also helped us understand the importance of appropriate personal protection and hygiene practices when dealing with sick horses displaying symptoms of (or suspected of) having Hendra. A direct result of this has been that there has not been a case of a human being infected with Hendra since 2009.

In November last year a vaccine was finally released to immunise horses against Hendra with the government recommending that all horses in “at risk” areas be vaccinated. While it has been a long time coming the vaccine will help save the lives of horses and greatly reduce the possibility of humans coming into contact with Hendra and risking infection. Keeping up to date with the latest information and breakthroughs will help ensure we are able to better combat this virus.

The day when our flying foxes, horses and humans can co exist with all remaining healthy and safe is ever closer. As humans we need to recognise the importance of our native wildlife and plants in maintaining a healthy, balanced and sustainable environment for us to live in – both now and for future generations – and learn how to live in harmony with them.

HENDRA RESEARCH

Reducing the risk in the paddock

Article adapted from Sarina
Landcare Catchment
Management Association
Newsletter/DAFF Biosecurity QLD
newsletter

The Queensland Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases (QCEID) is working on a number of research projects to better understand Hendra virus. Flying foxes play a key ecological role in fertilising eucalypt flowers and spreading seeds of rainforest giants. Fruiting and flowering trees are the main source of food for flying foxes and heavily fruiting or flowering trees can attract them in large numbers. When feeding, they drop partially eaten fruit, spit out indigestible seeds and fibre (spats), and periodically urinate and defecate.

In two studies, QCEID scientists have looked at fruiting fig trees to determine the amount of excreta and food debris left by flying foxes and the pattern of distribution. Horses often ‘camp’ under large spreading figs and graze on the lower leaves. This may be one way horses come into contact with Hendra virus. The research has confirmed longstanding advice that the risk of Hendra virus infection can be significantly reduced by keeping horses away from fruiting or flowering trees that flying foxes feed in.

The investigation found that all flying fox urine and almost all faeces and fruit debris, or spats, fall directly under the canopy of fruiting trees in which they are feeding. Therefore unstabled horses should be kept in open pastures and away from trees in flower or fruit. Another study involved laying plastic sheeting from the base of a heavily fruiting, small-leaved fig to a non-fruiting, non-flowering tree nearly 50 metres away.

Scientists were able to quantify the amount of food debris and excreta produced by feeding flying foxes, and see how far it extended beyond the perimeter of the trees. Less than one per cent of excretions and spats were found under the nearby non-fruiting, non-flowering tree. Significantly, no excreta at all was discovered in the paddock between the two trees. This shows that horses and flying fox ‘trees’ can coexist; providing a safe space for horses (with some management), trees which are habitat for many species in addition to flying foxes, and flying foxes which provide the important ecosystem services of distributing plant genetic material across our landscape.

For more information check out www.daff.qld.gov.au

CAN YOU HELP OUR ANIMALS?

CAN YOU SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS A WEEK TO HELP OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE AT TIMES THAT SUIT YOU? IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS –see page 17 for contact details.

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

OUR ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP!

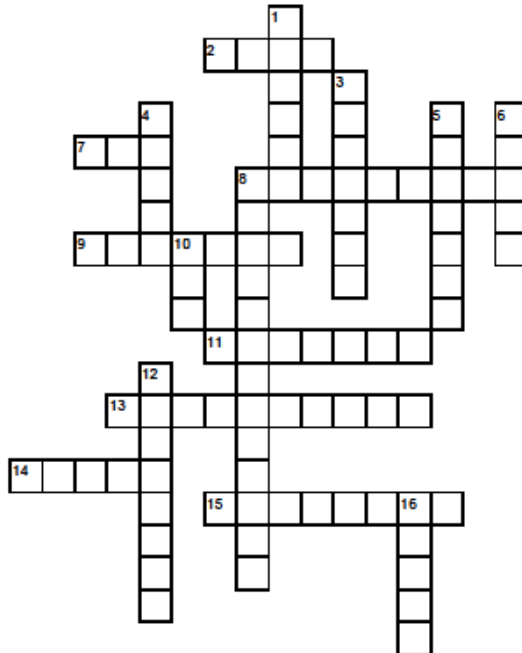
OTHER WAYS TO HELP FRW

- **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**

See next page for
answers

WENDY WALLABY'S FUN PAGE

Our feathered friends



Across

- 2 This elegant bird comes in either black or white
- 7 While unable to fly this bird is capable of running at speeds of up to 50km per hour
- 8 This eagle is named for the distinctive shape of its tail
- 9 One of our most colourful birds
- 11 One of the main characters in the movie Storm Boy was one of these
- 13 This bird is well known for laughing
- 14 What a baby bird is called
- 15 Years ago these birds were used to check air quality in mines

Down

- 1 Some football teams use me as an emblem
- 3 Instead of flying this bird prefers to swim
- 4 These birds are well known for their love of water
- 5 A beach dweller who has a fondness for chips
- 6 People acting the fool are often called this
- 8 This black and white bird likes to wag its tail
- 10 What you might find in a nest
- 12 Species include red tailed black, Major Mitchell and Gang Gang
- 16 One species of this bird likes hanging around with cattle



Photo : galah.galahs.com.au

WHAT AM I?

One of my favourite foods is snails and I am often caught stealing dog or cat food

I am cold blooded but do not hatch from an egg

I can live for up to 20 years in captivity and some people keep me as a pet

I like to burrow and often sneeze to clear dirt from my nostrils

I store food and water in my (detachable) tail so I can survive when food is scarce

When I feel threatened I hiss and poke out my blue tongue

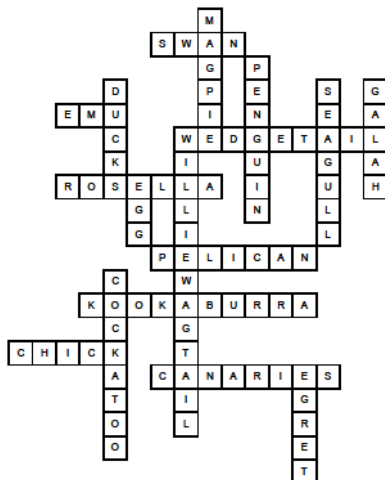
FRW NOTICEBOARD

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
17 th & 18 th January, 2013	Soil Health Workshop	17 th Walkerston, 18 th Proserpine	Contact WCL - Christine Peterson 4945 0267 for details

WENDY WALLABY ANSWERS

Our feathered friends



Across

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WHAT AM I?

I am a BlueTongued Lizard

Photo : Animal Wallpaper



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
President – Jacqui Webb Phone : 4947 3308 0427 176 966 Email : Jacqui.webb@bigpond.com	Macropod SLO – Andrea Gottke Phone : 4966 8020 or 0478 618 859 Email : a_gottke@westnet.com.au	4945 0200 ALL SNAKES Peter Basso (fee charged) 0439 478 140 Kylee Gray (fee charged) 0424 456 254
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	
Treasurer – Monika Gabor Phone : 4946 1732 0439 382 366 Email : miller_monika@yahoo.com	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	
Kylee Gray Phone : 0424 456 254 Email : kyleegray@live.com.au	Frog SLO – Kylee Gray Phone : 0424 456 254 Email : kyleegray@live.com.au	
Bob Daisley Phone : 4945 7098 Email : gbdeee@gmail.com	BOWEN AREA – All Species SLO – Carol Consentino Phone : 4785 5497	
Col Forster Phone : 4946 1713 0419 473 299 Email : col_forfrw@yahoo.com.au	Website Editor – Gerry O'Connor Phone : 4947 3180 Email : wallaby1943@gmail.com	
Secretary – Alix Cunningham Phone : 4959 1901 0459 415 590 Email : frwsecretary@gmail.com	Newsletter Editor – Alix Cunningham Phone : 4959 1901 0459 415 590 Email : frwsecretary@gmail.com	Bowen Veterinary Clinic 156 Richmond Road, Bowen 4786 4864
	FRW Website www.frw.org.au FRW Animal Records http://www.frw.org.au/AnimalRecords/AnimalRecords.php	Brolgas Rest Vet Clinic 36 Don Street, Bowen 4786 3166
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 9666 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**

