NEW SLETTER 67 JUNE 2013

Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc. P.O. Box 806, Cannonvale 4802

Hotline: 07 4947 3389 - ABN 60 931 156 282

A MEARTY Appetite

WHITSUNDAYS

Photo - Kylee Gray



Talk about having biting off more than you can chew. This Spotted Python was discovered chowing down on a Common Tree Snake that was nearly twice his size. Luckily the pair were rescued by Kylee Gray earlier this year.

While the Tree Snake obviously needed help the Spotted Python would not have been able to consume the Tree Snake (due to its size) and both snakes would probably have died if not for Kylee's intervention.

With the help of a drop of rum (snakes do not like the taste of spirits) she was able to gently remove the Tree Snake from the Spotted Pythons mouth. Despite being nearly one third consumed the Tree Snake had only minor scratches and bruising.

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

After a few days R n R, some TLC and a hearty dinner both snakes were returned to the wild. Hopefully the Spotted Python will be a bit more careful in choosing his next meal!

Common tree snakes come in a large range of colours from green, yellow, brown, black and some are even blue. When scared they can inflate their body to expose their blue skin – if you look closely at the above photo you will see the blue flecks on the tree snake!



Article and photo – Barb Adamson

This is my story and I thank Katy at the Orchid Valley Vets that I am able to tell it

My name is Eli and I am a brushtail possum, I had been in an awful fight and lay on the ground for about 3 days, the green ants were biting me and had given me an ulcerated eye. I was crying for mum and just when I thought there was no help a man picked me up and rang the Fauna Rescue Hotline. He picked all the green ants off me and soon I was collected by a carer and felt warm again, I also drank some water as I was starving.

It hurt me to drink as my mouth had been split open and I had a bad wound on my hip so it was hard for me to walk. The next morning I was taken to the vet and met my angels who gave me anaesthetic and stitched up my mouth inside and out and also the slit on my hip. They kept me warm until Barb, my new foster mum, picked me up.

I had a great home then and was spoilt with a warm cosy pouch and hammock in the bedroom, I drank milk and then had some great melon and mashed up apple with cereal. It felt unreal to have a fat tummy again. I had special cream in my eye and now it is all better.

That was a month ago and I am now double my weight. I have a buddy called Bozo who I cuddle all day and play with all night. I look a bit strange because when the stitches came out of my bottom lip it had healed but not together so I have a V mouth. I can still manage all my food and love my native leaves and flowers as well. So, in another few months, Barb says I will be able to go once again to the trees and be free.

Thanks especially to Katy and Kathryn who had never operated on a tiny possum before and I feel very special.

Eli



"The more helpless a creature the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of man" Mahatma Gandhi

FREE TO CARING MOME

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

shadecloth

CONTACT COL FOR MORE DETAILS



I would like to say thank you to everyone who was able to attend on our Annual General Meeting. This is a great way to participate in the organisational side of FRW. It is your opportunity to have your say and vote on who is going to hold Management or General Committee Member positions for the next year.

Attending also gives you a chance to hear about new projects and get a copy of FRW's Business Plan, Budget, Annual Report and Audit Report. If you missed it out and you still would like a copy of one or

more of the above documents, please let me know and I will send it to you by email or by post.

So far we have \$1,440 income from Membership fees and we are still expecting a few more, mainly renewals. We received \$430 in donations with the membership fees. The donation tin money collection is in progress: \$106 collected in 5 different locations, but there are ten more offices/shops to check. If you know someone who would be happy to have FRW's donation tin and/or brochures displayed in their office/shop, please send me a message and I will contact them. All these monies can go to our carers as reimbursement of the expenses incurred caring for sick, injured or orphaned animals.

Since the new financial year started (1st of March) we had some significant printing expenses for cat brochures and the wildlife information booklet, all together \$1,265. For the portable animal enclosure we spent \$11,632.50. Please note that this amount came from a successful grant application in the previous financial year.

If you would like to see the monthly income and expense report or you have any questions regarding FRW's financial state, please contact me either by mail or on the phone.

Your Treasurer

Monika Gabor

URTLE TRIAGE FACILI

Photo - gulfmex.org

All species of marine turtles in our region are listed as either vulnerable or endangered and are

subject to strict government regulations regarding their care. These laws require that rescued turtles be transferred to an approved facility within three days of being rescued.

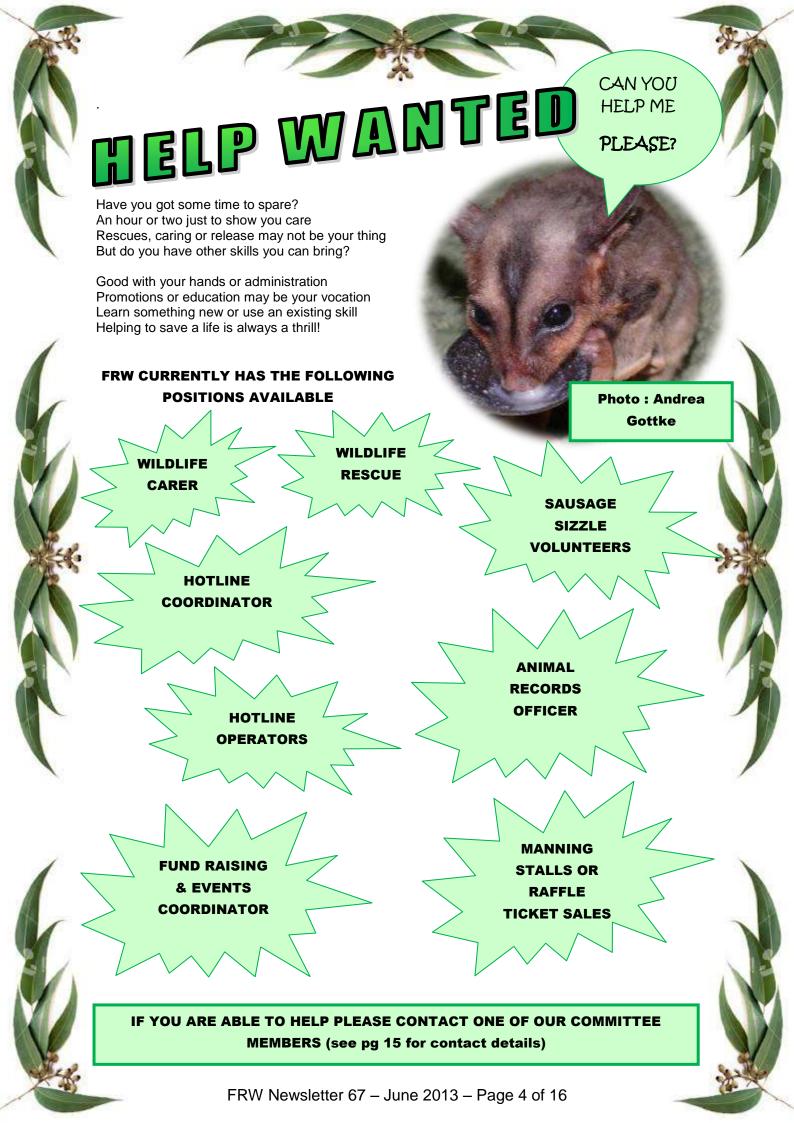
Due to the specialist equipment required to care for these animals there are limited facilities available. If, after three days, there is no room at an approved facility these animals need to be released back into the wild, whether they are capable of surviving or not.

Eco Barge, in partnership with FRW, is in the process of setting up a turtle triage facility at Eco Barge HQ which will allow us to care for stranded marine turtles for longer periods if there is no room

at other facilities (such as Reef HQ). The development of the facility has been in close consultation with QPWS and is modeled on the facility at Bowen (which Peter Sykes (QPWS) has said is one of the best turtle triage set ups he has seen). The facility will house two tanks with specialized filtration systems in a large sunny shed and works on the project will be commencing over the next few weeks.

Eco Barge and FRW would like to thank the Whitsunday Fauna Rescue Public Fund for funding this worthwhile project.





BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER

Some baby birds come into care because they have been abandoned or fallen from the nest. We try to return them to their parents, but sometimes this is not possible, so they have to come into care. This one came in complete with a nest - I can't remember why it couldn't be returned.

When this Blue Faced Honeyeater came into care it had only a few feathers so the most important factor was temperature (birds run at a higher temp than us). With larger birds I put a heat source in the basket with them, then they can move away if they get too hot. With smaller birds an incubator is ideal.

Article and photos: Di Jessop



Correctly identifying the bird and feeding them the correct

food is essential. I have found the book Chick Nestlings & Fledglings of Australian Birds Identification by Norma Henderson of great assistance. Blue Faced Honeyeaters normal diet is insects, nectar,



pollen and fruit. Many nectar and fruit eating birds also eat insects and the proportion of these is increased in the diet of the young to increase protein and mineral intake for their high growth rates. This Honeyeater ate lots of insects, nectar from flowering plants and it loved lorikeet mix. I weighed the bird on a daily basis to make sure it was gaining weight.

It was great to watch its development and, as with all birds, the transition as it learns to fly. We do not have a lot of Blue Faced Honeyeaters at our home so this bird was transferred to another carer for release. She had lots in her area and said after a few days of support feeding it joined up with some local

A great result for all!

THE FUTURE FOR FLYING FOX COLONIES

Article: Dominique Thiriet - Environmental law lecturer - JCU & Flying Fox **Coordinator - NQ Wildlife Care Inc.**

This article was first published by CAFNEC at

http://cafnec.org.au/2013/06/the-future-for-flying-fox-colonies/

As the sun goes down each night, flying foxes leave their colonies in search of food. During their night shift, these keystone species will perform crucial pollination and seed dispersal in rainforests and dry savannahs. Back at the colony during the day, they sleep, groom themselves, mate, socialise and squabble. Males guard their territories, females raise their babies and the young learn battiquette. Interactions are complex and fascinating. Colonies are composed of several hundreds to several hundreds of thousands of animals.

Colony sites are occupied all year round or seasonally, depending on the availability of fruiting and flowering trees within flying distance. Many are located near residential areas - either because the suburbs have expanded towards the bats or because the bats have moved closer to towns in search



of reliable food (produced by well irrigated garden trees). Destruction of colony sites and food forests by cyclones and/or land clearing have also forced some colonies to find new sites.

Flying fox colonies are generally unpopular with nearby residents. Flying foxes can be noisy (especially when disturbed), smelly (especially the males during the mating season) and they do defecate from great heights. Increasingly, residents are fearful of the health risk caused by viruses. This fear has been amplified by the media and by politicians keen for popular votes. Numerous public statements by health authorities that there is no risk provided the animals are not handled are ignored - and even then, the risk is minimal with Lyssavirus found in less than 1% of wild flying foxes.

The Newman government has been quick to respond to public anxiety by announcing that it will soon facilitate the removal of problem colonies in urban areas by allowing councils to do so without the

need for a damage mitigation permit. It is unclear what measures will be in place to control how, when and on what grounds relocations will be allowed. What is certain is that most councils do not have much expertise about flying fox ecology and behaviour. This is likely to lead to poor outcomes for residents and flying foxes alike. Relocating colonies is a costly and difficult process which involves harassing the animals until they move on. It is stressful for the bats and often unsuccessful. Moreover, it is unpleasant for residents, given the use of loud noises and smoke before dawn sometimes for months on end.

Depending on the colony and the nearby residents, alternatives to relocating colonies include the following: educating the public about the lack of risk and the great ecological value of flying foxes; encouraging residents to leave the bats alone to avoid stress and noise; installing double glazing windows and building covered walkways to reduce noise and mess; using proactive planning to creating



Juvenile Black Flying Fox Photo: Kylee Gray

buffers between colonies and residents; planting suitable trees away from residential areas to lure the flying foxes away (a long term strategy); and creating ecotourism ventures (e.g. colony guided tours and observation of fly outs) to demonstrate the tourism value of the animals.

The major risk of a permissive approach to colony relocations is that councils are more likely to attempt to relocate colonies as a first instance. This 'not in my backyard' approach will result in an endless cycle of cost to rate payers as stressed colonies are moved from one area to the next. The spectacled flying fox, the main species found in the Cairns and Wet Tropics areas, is listed as a threatened species under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth). If we want a better future for these fascinating animals, lets learn to live with them. Harassing them is not the answer.

To learn more about our native flying foxes check out the following information

http://bats.org.au/about-bats/flying-foxes.php

http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/importance.html

http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/living-with-flyingfoxes.html

> :https://docs.google.com/folder/d/0B0xdxB2_AJwRlp6aE1icnd4NVk/edit?pli=1&doc



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

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

Mitre 10 Cannonvale for donating materials to make possum and bat boxes

Our local vets for all the care and support they give our native animals

Jason Costigan MP for the printing of our newsletter

Don't forget to take a look at the latest issue of the Wildlife Rescue Magazine.

This is free to download and is filled with detailed information about our native wildlife and their care. To download either the latest edition or previous issues

go to http://www.wildliferescuemagazine.com/

THIS IS A GREAT PUBLICIATION AND WELL WORTH THE READ

As the world becomes more environmentally aware, I believe that we must as individuals recognize the magnificence of our natural world, and feel a sense of accountability for our actions which affect it. "

BOB IRWIN

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 and lawn signs

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

DSSUM & GLIDER REPORT

This fauna year I welcomed Lorelle to the possum carer world and how fantastic that has been, she released some big possums for me in a penthouse Duncan built for possums. Then I asked if she would like to try a baby as I had lots at the time.

Lorelle has now had 3 sets of buddies from 100gms up and 3 single babies. Huge contribution to our nursery. Brittney Gregory is the other baby carer and she has had two babies this year.

Total possums in care this year are:

Euthanased 5

Released at 5 sites a total 23

Still in care: 4 at Barbs, 5 at Lorelle's, 1 in slow release trailer

I was privileged to care for a Feathertail glider for 5 days and nights, it was a first for me and such a beautiful animal. It was badly damaged by a cat and couldn't be saved in the end.

I would like to acknowledge The Men's Shed who came to the party and made us 10 possum boxes, 4 of which went into the trees at Dingo Beach Park where possums were sick and living in council bins. The shed will continue with this service, we are unsure about the High School service as staff has changed, also they lost their workshop because of asbestos I will keep communicating with them.

Thank you to all who helped this year

Barb Adamson - Coordinator Possum Glider

«FEATHERTAIL GLIDERS teresting facts?

Their scientific name is Acrobates pygmaeus which means pygmy acrobat.

The gliding membrane is called a patagium

The smallest of all gliders (adults weigh between 10 & 15g) these tiny guys can glide distances of up to 30 metres and use their tails to steer

Excellent climbers they are assisted by having a prehensile tail and specially shaped toes (similar to a frog) with sweat glands which allows them to climb smooth surfaces. A Feathertail Glider can climb a vertical pane of glass.

In cold weather Feathertail Gliders can enter "torpor" which slows their metabolism and lowers their temperature allowing them to conserve energy.

Feathertail Gliders are capable of embryonic diapauses. This means they can mate almost immediately after giving birth but the new embryo will remain dormant until the young already in the pouch are weaned (about 100 days old).

Speck - an orphaned Feathertail Glider

Photo: news.com.au



Feathertail Gliders are social and can live in large groups although groups of between 2 & 5 are more common.

Thank you to our outgoing committee, Lola, Col, Monika, Alix, Linden, Bob & Kylee who have worked tirelessly again this year to ensure FRW continues to move forward.

We have achieved a lot this year for our organization and our wildlife with Alix not only acting as our wonderfully efficient secretary but also producing an informative and great looking newsletter. Alix has also been successful with grant applications towards several projects including the grant from Building Rural Communities which gave us more aviaries, cages, rescue baskets for new members and pond liner & pump for the Freshwater Turtle pond as well as the tank for Marine Turtles. We also received funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for Temporary Fencing for macropods.

Monika came back from Germany and took over the reins from Col as Treasurer (although he continued on as a committee member) and has proven to be an invaluable asset to our organization, providing some comprehensive reports and recommendations for the committee.

We sadly said goodbye to Wendy Adams and welcomed Andrea Gottke as our new Macropod Species Liaison Officer.

Our Public Fund approved spending towards the Linda Dennis workshop, Hoppy Haven and a new fridge to keep our food stocks in.

Curlew Photo : Sandy Cleeland

The Hotline Operators Manual and the FRW Wildlife Information booklet (for use in the bags for the school kids) have been finalized. Barb A has been busy over the last year with numerous school visits, with the assistance of Wendy Wallaby, keeping our children educated about our wildlife and the environment. We have created and distributed the Folders for Vets.

With the kind help of the gentlemen from The Men's Shed we have had new possum & bat boxes built, with more in the pipeline thanks to a kind donation of materials from Mitre 10.

Our fundraising activities have continued to bring in the dollars too via the Rotary Raffle, Christmas Raffle and also the Bunnings Sausage Sizzles on which Lorelle and Duncan have done a tremendous job, along with their band of volunteers.

Five members attended the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference last year in Townsville, bringing back lots of ideas and knowledge to share with our members. We held workshops with Linda Dennis as well as the New Members Orientation Workshop at Padaminka for the benefit of our Mackay members.

We, the committee, feel we have worked well this year, achieved a lot for FRW and our wildlife whilst all living very busy lives outside of FRW. If you feel you may have some time and would like to step up to a committee position please let us know, some of us could do with a well earned break.

Whilst the committee is the core of the operational side of FRW, our members and carers are also very important to this organisation. Our Hotline volunteers for being 'the voice' of FRW and generally the first contact for our community. Our Species Liaison Officers for the co-ordination of carers and animals. Our carers and rescuers are vital to the wellbeing of our wildlife, as are our members who assist with printing and designing of our promotional materials. Even our "silent" members, whose membership monies go towards helping to run this organization and contribute to essential items for our wildlife, are vital to the running of the FRW and helping our wildlife.

For those who have a facebook account check out Leroy the Turtle having lunch at:

https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=582596951771214&set=vb.1052319928 41048&type=2&theater



We would also like to thank our local community and businesses too – they have continued to support FRW in many ways with donations of goods or money to help us to help our wildlife and invitations for displays at various community events to spread further awareness of our organization, our wildlife and also to enable us to recruit new members.

Our Future Directions for FRW are to ensure our sick, injured and orphaned wildlife continues to receive the best possible help whilst in our care.

We are currently working on the setting up of a Marine Turtle Triage facility in conjunction with Eco Barge Clean Seas and would like to welcome Libby as our Marine Animal Species Liaison Officer. We are looking for a donation of either a new or second hand water tank to store the used water from Turtle tanks.

We will continue to:

- Assist our local Wildlife and their environment
- Provide further education & training for our members to keep their skills and knowledge updated
- Increase and improve database use
- Raise public awareness for our wildlife, their environment and FRW's role within the community through continuing our School & Community Education Project
- Recruit more Carers & Members
- Find more release sites
- Create new ideas for fundraising and marketing
- Increase and improve database use

If anyone has any ideas or would like to volunteer time to help with the above please contact one of the committee members.

Lastly, I would like to remind you all about the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference which is being held in Hobart next year, 2014. This is an excellent opportunity to get up to date with all the latest techniques in Wildlife Rehabilitation and meet other like minded people from around Australia. Hope to see you there.

Regards Jacqui _

LOVE LIFE TO DIE FOR

Many animals have strange and wonderful mating rituals but for the Antechinus mating is deadly serious business. The hectic mating schedule will sap every ounce of the male's strength and by the end of the mating season every exhausted male Antechinus will die – trading individual long term survival for the pleasure of mating and ensuring survival of the species

Often mistaken for a feral mouse the Antechinus is a marsupial rather than a mammal. The most obvious difference is the teeth – Antechinus are carnivores with teeth similar to canines allowing them to eat their prey of insects and small lizards.



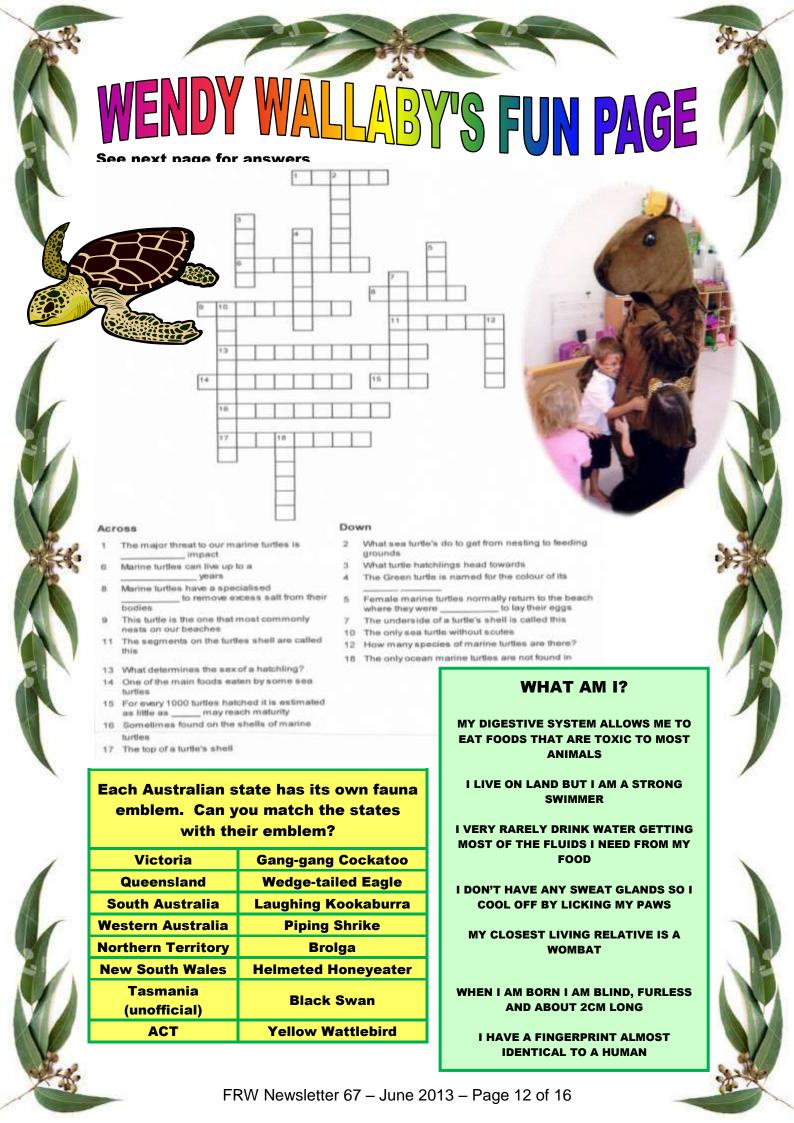
Mother Antechinus with young
Photo: abc.net.au

The female Antechinus gives birth to up to 10 babies approximately a month after mating, with litters often having multiple fathers. Until they grow too big the babies travel with Mum hanging from a kind of open pouch and being dragged around. When they outgrow this method of travel they are left in a nest until they are weaned (at around 3 months old) and at this point they begin travelling, on their own feet, with Mum. As winter approaches they become sexually active and go their own way living a solitary life until the next mating season begins.

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Your fantastic team AWRC Hobart 2014





F L A T B A C K S C U T E S A T U R E H U R E H C T S C A R A S S O N E N



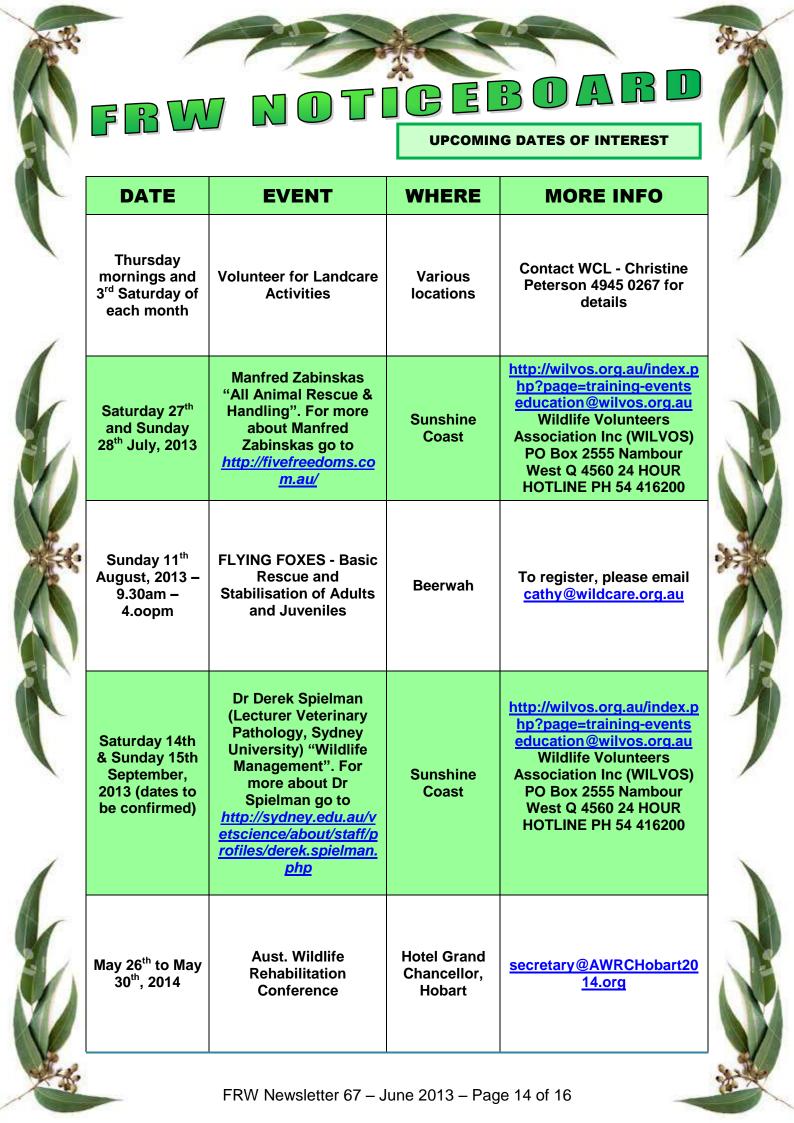
Bath time
Photo : seeanz.com

Owen
Photo : Sandy Cleeland



Australian state bird emblems

Victoria	Helmeted Honeyeater
Queensland	Brolga
South Australia	Piping Shrike (AKA Magpie)
Western Australia	Black Swan
Northern Territory	Wedge-tailed Eagle
New South Wales	Laughing Kookaburra
Tasmania (unofficial)	Yellow Wattlebird
ACT	Gang-gang Cockatoo









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 rwsecretary@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.







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