

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

Hotline: 07 4947 3389 - ABN 60 931 156 282

CAGE SIZES

WHITSUNDAYS

Earlier this year the revised Code of Practice for the Care of Orphaned, Sick or Injured Protected Animals came into effect. One of the main changes in the updated code is that many of the minimum endosure sizes have been reviewed and increased.

All FRW members should now have a copy of the revised Code of Practice. If you do require a copy please contact our secretary at rwsecretary@gmail.com or one of your committee members (contact details on page 20).

Any new endosures, cages, aviaries or animal containment areas being purchased or constructed from now on need to meet or exceed the standards outlined in the updated code.

Existing endosures, cages, aviaries or animal containment areas need to be upgraded to meet the outlined standards prior to March 2015.

To ensure our continued compliance with the Code and conditions of our Wildlife Rehabilitation permit FRW would appreciate hearing from all our carers with a list outlining the number and sizes of any cages, aviaries, endosures or animal containment areas and which species they are being used for.

FRW may be able to assist with the costs of upgrading existing endosures, cages, aviaries or animal containment areas to meet the new standards. If you require assistance please do not he sitate to speak to the committee.

Please take the time to read the updated Code to ensure your facilities meet the standards outlined. As an organisation FRW wants to ensure that we provide the best possible care for the animals we look after to give them the highest chance of survival after release.

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



Those who keep chickens may have heard of the practice of using "dummy" eggs to encourage hens to lay. Unfortunately no one told this goanna and the "egg" he ate turned out to be a golf ball.

He came into care extremely unwell but with no obvious injuries or problems. He was not improving so was taken to the vet for an examination. X-rays revealed the golf ball stuck in his stomach. Despite undergoing and surviving surgery to remove the obstruction sadly the goanna passed away that night.



PRESIDENT'S BEPORI

July/August/September 2013

I hope this newsletter finds you all fighting fit and ready for the silly season. Yes we are starting to see more wildlife coming into care and I would like to draw your attention to some issues we have, and may yet still see, especially with the warm dry weather and strong winds.

Firstly, if anyone knows a D Border, they collected a box of rescue booklets in error from the Post Office in Proserpine. These rescue booklets were sent from QWRC and were to be used as part of our FRW School & Community Education Project. Some were to go into the bags we give to the school kids when we do our school talks, whilst others were destined for our sausage sizzle stall for members of the public to pick up and keep in their cars. If you do know this person please tell them that the booklets are of no use to them and we would appreciate them returning them to the Proserpine Post Office or call the FRW Hotline 4947 3389 for collection, no questions asked.

We have received numerous calls about dead and dying birds, mainly ducks, at the Abel Road pond and the sewerage works. We suspected botulism, a toxin formed by the bacteria feeding on decaying matter in the pond (see article on botulism further in the newsletter). Some of the birds that came into care were able to be saved, whilst others were not so lucky as we did not get them into care in time despite the patrols of some of the nearby residents as well as our carers.

As we were seeing large numbers of dead and dying birds we were obligated to report the incident to QPWS and Biosecurity Qld who are on guard for foreign diseases such as Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) entering our country. Peter Sykes (QPWS) and Barry Robinson (Biosecurity) investigated the case and samples were taken and they are reasonably confident it is botulism and not Avian Influenza or any other nasty bug. They have also advised the owner of the pond on strategies to help rectify this problem.

This case comes as a timely reminder of the importance of keeping in touch with your Animal Species Liaison Officers. SLO's keep track of animals coming into care so we can match up animals of the same species, give recommendations on facilities and identify training needs in addition to helping identify issues such as botulism.

Due to the diligent reporting of several of our bird carers along with the hotline operators, we were able to identify an issue that could have had dire consequences if left unchecked. Unfortunately some birds were lost, but we were able to save some who have since been released back to a more suitable habitat. Early notification of the appropriate authorities has enabled them to deal with the matter and hopefully have the problem rectified so as to prevent further deaths. We also believe this case will assist other carers in recognising botulism should it occur again, which we suspect it will with current weather conditions.

At this time of the year we do like to encourage people to keep fresh drinking water available on their property for the wildlife as well as, where possible and dependant on water restrictions, keeping food trees and plants well watered to promote fruiting and flowering. Please ensure water is changed every day to keep water fresh and prevent mosquitoes breeding. Flushing ponds and dams where possible and removing rotting vegetation and/or bodies will also help prevent diseases such as botulism.



On to more good news, our FRW Rehabilitation Permit has now been upgraded to allow us to rescue and care for Marine Turtles short term. The Turtle Triage Facility at $E\infty$ Barge HQ is up and running with Libby and her trained volunteers being kept busy with turtle rescue and care. Libby is our Marine Animal Liaison Officer and all turtles will need to be reported to her via the FRW hotline.

When I visited Libby she had 3 turtles in care with another expected on the following day. Crush, the juvenile Green Sea Turtle was just adorable and has since been released. You may have seen his release story recently in the local paper. We would like to congratulate Libby on the setup of such a great facility and once again thank the FRW public fund for financing this venture. I would also like to suggest that you all purchase the 2014 Ecobarge Calendar this year for Christmas presents. They will be available through Libby or for sale on our Christmas Raffle Stalls.

We are continuing to work with the wonderful guys at the Men's Shed who are making possum and bat boxes for us as well as 'Hoppy Hangers'. Thanks guys for your wonderful support of our organisation and our wildlife \odot

Thank you to Alix, our secretary, who has secured further workshop funding. We will be running a Bat

Workshop, with Dominique Thiriet, on the 9^{th} and 10^{th} November and have booked Dr Anne Fowler for June 14^{th} - 15^{th} 2014 with a Wombaroo Presentation by Gordon Rich.

Please mark these dates in your diary. We are also looking into a reptile workshop/presentation and maybe a bird workshop with this funding. If anyone has other ideas the committee could consider for training/workshops please let your Species Liaison Officer or one of your committee members know.

Another big thankyou once again to Alix, who has yet again secured more funding, this time for some more mascot costumes as Wendy Wallaby, a huge hit with our school kids, needs to go into retirement. So keep a look out for our new mascots visiting a venue near you soon!

Thank you to Barb McLennan who has now taken over the coordination of the Bunnings Sausage Sizzles. Monies raised from the sizzles assist with payment of such things as Vet bills and cheaper animal food for carers. If you can assist with the sizzles held once a month, please give Barb a call.

And yes, once again I wish to remind all carers and hotline operators to submit/update their records on a regular basis, either via the online Longrass Record System or by phoning your Species Liaison Officer. I will stress, once again it is a requirement to keep records up to date and adhere to the Code of Practice for Sick, Injured and Orphaned Wildlife. It is

also a requirement of the organisation that you let your Species Liaison Officer know when you get an animal into care. You can do this by either phoning, emailing (details in back of newsletter) or by posting to the FRW Post box 806, Cannonvale 4802.

Your Species Liaison Officer keeps up to date with all species they look after including latest recommended housing, diet, care, illnesses and new medications as well as knowing who has what and the suitable facilities should we need to match up individuals (ie mob animals such as Eastern Greys or flock birds such as cockatoos and ducks).

Different animals within a species quite often need totally different care ie Rock Wallabies and small marsupials may need an endosed area whereas roos and larger wallabies need a very large endosure to exercise and build up their leg muscles ready for release. All emerging macropods need ample space for learning to hop and develop muscles. Gliders should be brought up in a family group.



A magpie costume which
will be one of three
costumes purchased with
the grant monies received
from Breakwater Island
Casino Community Benefit

Fund



Certain birds eat fruit, whilst others may be meat, insect or seed eaters. Some such as Black Butcher birds live in the rainforest, so prefer lots of foliage in their aviaries. All birds need an aviary to practice flying as soon as their flight feathers start to grow (before they fledge). Birds with injuries may also need space to build up wing muscles again after a short stay in a hospital cage.

Most reptiles prefer to have several hidey holes in their tank. The list goes on and on. This understanding is a necessary and essential part of the rehabilitation process, helping to prevent imprinting of animals and birds, and ensuring we are rearing and caring for a well-balanced and fit animal to be returned to its natural environment. Your Species Liaison Officer can also assist with extra facilities ie humidicribs, endosures, cages, aviaries should you need them.

As mentioned previously, if I was not alerted by several people to the plight of the water birds at the sewerage works and the Abel Road pond, more of these birds would have died.

So PLEASE ENSURE you contact your Species Liaison Officer when that animal first comes into your care.

And one last thing, with the baby bird season upon us, please let me know if anyone has native fruiting trees. You can pick these berries and freeze them in freezer bags. Our bird and possum carers will certainly appreciate them as will the fruit eating birds and possums ©

Cheers, Jacqui

PS: Barb Mc will be organising the roster for our Xmas raffle. If you can spare some time to help with selling tickets and/or transport of stall gear between sites please give Barb a call on 4946 6400. We are also seeking donations of non perishable Xmas food items and drinks/alcohol for the main raffle prizes. If you do have an item to donate please either let Barb know or contact one of the committee members to arrange pick up/drop off.

BAINBOW BEE-EATER

The only species of Bee-eater found in Australia this stunning bird is found throughout most of the country with the exception of desert areas. Both males and females have similar colouring with females having shorter, thicker tail streamers than males.

Feeding on insects, with bees and wasps being a favourite, the Bee-eater will catch insects in flight. They then land and beat the insect against their perch before consuming it. The dever little bird will also rub bees and wasps against their perch to remove their stings or venom prior to eating.

Photo - wakpaper.com



Rainbow Bee-eaters (scientific name *Merops omatus*) spend winter in the north returning to summer breeding areas for nesting. The male and female select a suitable next site in a sandy bank and dig a long tunnel (average length of 89.4cm) which leads to a nesting chamber which they often line with grasses.

The female will lay 3 to 7 glossy white eggs which will hatch after approximately 24 days. Both parents assist with incubating the eggs and feeding the young and the parents are often assisted by older Bee-eaters without young.

Information used in this article sourced from www.birdlife.org.au & Wikipedia





The 2014 Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference will be held in Hobart from the 27th to the 30th May, 2014. The theme for this conference is New Directions - Accommodating Change. These conferences are a great opportunity to learn more about our wildlife, update your knowledge and meet and share knowledge with other wildlife rehabilitators.

FRW will be applying for funding to send members to the conference and if you are interested in attending please complete the application form on page 21.

HELP FOR OUR MARINE TURTLES

Marine Turtle Response and Triage Centre

Natural and human induced threats are having huge impacts on marine turtle populations, with turtle strandings being reported along the Queensland coastline in alarming numbers in recent years.

It is therefore essential that local communities become involved in protecting these animals. In response to this, Eco Barge is initiating a new program to ensure a fast and efficient response to any turtles in need within the Whitsunday region, as well as a Turtle Triage Centre to provide appropriate care until the turtle is fit to be released, or relocated to Reef HQ Aquarium Turtle Hospital in Townsville if further treatment is required.

30 volunteers from the Whitsunday region have already undertaken a marine turtle response course presented by QPWS to ensure that any sick or injured turtles are able to receive the help that they need. In addition, the Turtle Triage Facility is being established in partnership with Fauna Rescue Whitsundays, with three turtle pools already up and running, and a fourth on its way thanks to the Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Public Fund.

We have responded to nine stranded turtles since May, which has included one little Hawksbill Turtle "Harry" that was brought up from Mackay. Each turtle has its own story, with some unfortunately not having the ending we were hoping for.

Crush was found by Brad Watson on Conway Beach. While in care Crush put on

Article: Libby Edge

400 grams prior to a successful release that made the papers.

Photo: Sandy Cleeland

However, we are incredibly excited to be releasing our first recovered turtle this week. "Crush" came in with float and boat strike, but a huge appetite, and now after putting on some weight and no longer floating it is time this little turtle went back to play in the beautiful waters of the Whitsundays.

The in-kind support provided to date has been wonderful, a huge thank you must be given to Fauna Rescue Whitsundays for providing funding to purchase the turtle tanks and equipment, as well as, Bowen Pools & pumps, Whitsunday Pool Service, Porters Whitsunday Hardware & Building Supplies, Green Energy Technologies and Reece Plumbing for assisting with the tank set-ups and the donation of pumps, filters and other necessary bits and pieces.

This is an exciting new direction for Eco Barge, so if you would like to get involved or find out ways in which you can help with this important work, please contact us.



This month we had a successful grant application and received \$3,500 for training from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous This is a great opportunity for Fauna Rescue to provide workshops/training to our carers and those members who would like to become carers. Workshop attendees gain both basic and more specific knowledge about different types of native animals, such as proper care for very young animals, recognizing and treating common illness and injuries, etc.



The FRW Committee work hard to provide this training free of charge to our members and we try to organize these locally so members who are interested are able to attend and don't need to travel long distances or pay for accommodation. Workshops are held on weekends, as this is the most convenient time for most of us and all attendees receive a Certificate of Attendance to show they have completed the training.

All workshops will be advertised in our Newsletter and a separate invitation also will be sent. Monies from the grant will be used to cover the workshop expenses such as travel, accommodation and speaker fees allowing FRW to provide the training at no cost to our members. There may be a small fee for course notes and/or CDs which are normally purchased from the speaker.



Fauna Rescue operate a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings every month. Thanks to everyone who helps out with their time and a special thanks to Barb McLennan for organising these events. Monies raised from the BBQs are invaluable and to date these BBQs have raised \$1,779.35 this financial year.

This money is used to cover expenses related to the care of sick, injured or orphaned native animals, such as phone bills for the hotline, Veterinary fees, food for the animals (some of them require special formulas), medicine or other expenses directly related to caring.

All carers can claim the cost of medical treatments and a percentage of the money spent on food caring for our native animals back from FRW providing your animal records are up to date and FRW has the funds

available. Claim forms and invoices need to be submitted to either myself or any other committee member for approval and payment.

If you have any questions about daiming your care-related expenses or you need an Expense Claim Form, please contact me (miller monika@yahoo.com; 4946-1732 or 0439 382 366) or your Species Liasion Officer.

Best Regards

FREE TO GARING DOME

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



Botulism is caused by toxin from a bacterium that lives in decaying animal and vegetable matter.

Description

Botulism, also known as limberneck, is food poisoning caused by the ingestion of a preformed toxin. This poison is produced by Clostridium botulinum, a bacterium that lives on decaying animal and vegetable matter. Its spores can remain dormant in contaminated soil for years and germinate into toxin, producing bacteria when a suitable nutrient source and an anaerobic environment are available. The disease is characterised by paralysis of the neck and limbs. Usually, a number of birds are affected and they succumb quickly.

Cause

Botulism is caused by the ingestion of the toxin from Clostridium botulinum. Conditions that favour the growth of this organism are found in decaying carcasses, and other decaying plant and animal matter, and in stagnant pools contaminated by rotting animal or plant material. When birds eat material containing the toxin, the characteristic signs of intoxication known as botulism will occur if the toxin's dose is high enough.

Species susceptible

All domestic poultry, including fowls, turkeys, water fowl, pheasants, emus and most wild birds are susceptible. Carrion-eating birds can withstand large doses of the toxin without showing any symptoms.

Botulism occurs sporadically in poultry raised under conditions where hygiene is poor and birds have access to rotting carcasses or other contaminated or decaying material. It also occurs occasionally in wild birds, particularly if they feed in stagnant water holes. Botulism is usually more common in the warmer months.

Clinical signs

The first signs are visible 12 to 48 hours after toxin ingestion. An affected bird will appear drowsy and disindined to move. Their head also droops, and later they rest it on the ground. Their neck may be coiled over or lie straight on the ground due to flacid (relaxed) paralysis. Their wings and legs may also become paralysed. They may have mucoid saliva coming from the beak, greenish diarrhoea and a loss of appetite. Their eyelids dose and wings droop. Their feathers may be easily plucked. They may lapse into a coma and then die.

Diagnosis

Characteristic features of the disease are paralysis of the eyelids, neck and feather follides, resulting in easily plucked feathers. No lesions are visible at post-mortem. A demonstration of toxin in the gut contents or blood may achieve laboratory confirmation of botulism, but this is usually possible only with samples taken early in the outbreak from severely affected birds. A demonstration of toxin in carrion or a feed contaminant is more achievable, so suspected toxin sources should also be sent for testing.

Similar diseases

Fowl tick fever (spirochaetosis), Marek's disease and Fowl cholera and other septicaemia.

Control

If possible, remove the source of the toxin. Keep birds away from suspect sources. Remove dead birds, supply dean feed and water, clean up around stagnant pools, and ensure that all feed is fed in containers and not on the ground. The toxin is also found in maggots and litter beetles, so these must also be controlled.

Treatment

Due to the acute action of the botulinum toxin, treatment is usually not attempted. Sick birds should be isolated and provided with food and water. Supportive therapy with antibiotics and vitamins has been helpful in some cases. Birds that live through 48 hours of illness usually recover.

Last updated 27 August 2012

The above article sourced from Qld Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/animal-industries/poultry/diseases-and-disorders/botulism



http://www.nwhc.usqs.gov/publications/field_manual/chapter_38.pdf

Avian botulism is a paralytic, often fatal, disease of birds that results when they ingest toxin produced by the bacterium, Clostridium botulinum. Seven distinct types of toxin designated by the letters A to G have been identified. Waterfowl die-offs due to botulism are usually caused by type C toxin; sporadic die-offs among fish-eating birds, such as common loons and gulls, have been caused by type E toxin. Type A botulinum toxin has also caused disease in birds, most frequently in domestic chickens.

C. botulinum is an oxygen-intolerant or anaerobic bacterium that persists in the form of dormant spores when environmental conditions are adverse. The spores are resistant to heating and drying and can remain viable for years. Spores of type C botulism strains are widely distributed in wetland sediments; they can also be found in the tissues of most wetland inhabitants, including aquatic insects, molluscs, and crustacea and many vertebrates, including healthy birds. Botulinum toxin is produced only after the spores germinate, when the organism is actively growing and multiplying.

Although the bacteria provide the mechanism for toxin production, the gene that encodes for the toxin protein is actually carried by a virus or phage that infects the bacteria. Unfortunately, little is known about the natural factors that control phage infection and replication within the bacteria, but several factors may play a role, including the bacterial host strain and environmental characteristics, such as temperature and salinity.

Because botulinum spores and the phages that carry the toxin gene are so prevalent in wetlands, they are not considered to be a limiting factor in the occurrence of outbreaks in waterbirds. Other factors are thought to be more critical in the timing and location of botulism outbreaks; these include optimal environmental conditions for spore germination and bacterial growth, suitable material or substrates that provide energy for bacterial replication and a means of toxin transfer to birds. It is likely that toxin production, toxin availability to birds and, subsequently, botulism outbreaks in birds are largely controlled by these ecological factors.

As with other bacteria, temperature plays a critical role in the multiplication of C. botulinum, with optimal growth in the laboratory occurring between 25 ° and 40 °C. Most botulism outbreaks take place during the summer and fall when ambient temperatures are high. Winter botulism outbreaks have been documented in some locations, but these are generally thought to be due to residual toxin produced during the previous summer.

Conditions that elevate wetland sediment temperatures and decrease dissolved oxygen, including the presence of decaying organic matter and shallow water, may increase the risk of botulism outbreaks. However, these conditions are not prerequisite to an outbreak because botulism has occurred in large river systems and in deep, well-oxygenated wetlands, which suggests that other environmental conditions may be more critical. In studies conducted by the National Wildlife Health Center, several environmental factors, including pH, salinity (Fig. 38.3), temperature, and oxidation-reduction potential in the sediments and water column, appeared to significantly influence the likelihood of botulism outbreaks in wetlands.

In addition to permissive environmental conditions, C. botulinum also requires an energy source for

growth and multiplication. Because it lacks the ability to synthesize certain essential amino acids, the bacterium requires a high protein substrate; it is essentially a "meat lover." The most important substrates for toxin production in natural wetlands have never been identified, but there are many possibilities, including decaying organic matter or any other protein particulates.

Seagull with botulism

AVIAN BÔTULISM

Decomposing carcasses, both vertebrate and invertebrate, are well known to support toxin production. Human activities can also increase the available substrate for toxin production in wetlands. For



example, wetland flooding and draining, pesticides, and other agricultural pollutants may kill aquatic life, thereby providing more substrate for toxin production. Raw sewage and rotting vegetation are other potential sources of energy.

Although many substrates are suitable for botulinum toxin production, in order for a botulism outbreak to occur the toxin must be in a form that is available to birds. In some cases, decaying organic matter may be directly ingested, but in other cases there must be some means of toxin transfer from the substrate to the birds, presumably through zooplankton or invertebrate food items that inadvertently consumed toxin.

Invertebrates are unaffected by the toxin and, because they feed on decaying matter, they can effectively act to concentrate toxin. Although most waterfowl will not directly consume a vertebrate carcass, they will readily ingest any maggots that fall off of it. In this way, botulism outbreaks often become self-perpetuating. This has become known as the carcass-maggot cycle of avian.

RAPTORS IN A GHANGING LANDSGAPE

Australasian Raptor Association Conference, Adelaide, August 10th & 11th 2013.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to the organisers of last weekend's ARA conference. This was a great conference, filled with great presenters, (many who are my gurus in the raptor world such as, and not limited to, Dr Penny Olsen, Dr Stephen Nebus and Ian Falkenberg), really interesting topics and some amazing attendees. It is really inspiring to hear about the wonderful work and studies being carried out in the raptor world, as well as the realisation that there are just so many people out there who really do care for and are carrying out some amazing research to help us to understand and preserve these beautiful birds.

I really believe that, as wildlife carers, it is imperative that we understand the behaviour and habitat of the birds that come into our care. This then gives us a much better chance of being able to offer our wards the best possible care and produce the best possible outcomes for their rehabilitation and release. For instance, did you know that Tawny Frogmouths tend to orient their positions during the day to take advantage of the sunshine and avoid prevailing winds, as do Wedge-tailed Eagles when building nest sites? Or that the oldest banded raptor to date was an Osprey at 21yrs and 4mths or that most raptors will quite happily foster other chicks of the same age as their own. Or that whilst some birds such Peregrine Falcons have adapted to human interference in their landscape, others such as the White-bellied Sea Eagle will abandon nest sites if there is too much human interference near nest sites. There was so much info to share, but I don't have space to share it all here.

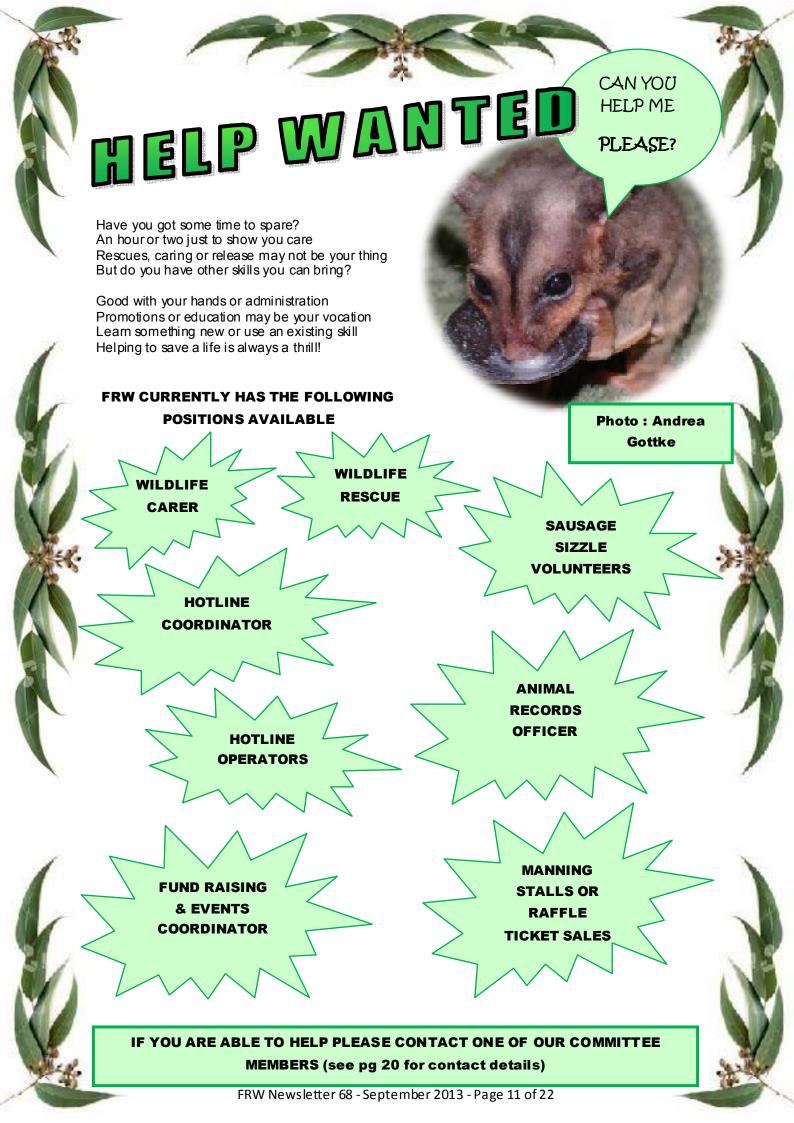
I have come away with a far greater understanding of these birds that I feel will enhance my work and abilities as a raptor carer and amateur bird watcher, some great contacts should I need further info on some of the species that I care for, as well as who to contact should I have further information to share on the raptors in my area and that come into care. I would strongly advise that those of you who do care for raptors join the ARA so you have access to this wealth of information provided by these

avid raptor enthusiasts. As a group, FRW is a member of the ARA, so issues of their magazine, Boobook are available for loan through our FRW library.

For more information visit via Birdlife Australia at http://birdlife.org.au/support-us/join-special-interest-groups/

Jacqui Webb

Photo - Wikipedia





Fauna Rescue Whitsundays would like to welcome the following new members and thank all those who renewed their membership.

- Lee Greyvensteyn
- Whitsunday Home Schoolers
- Steven Burch & Angelina Haesler
- Graham Armstrong
- Linda & Brian O'Neill

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HOME HARDWARE TO THE RESCUE

Photos: Sandy Cleeland. Above – Figgy tangled in tree. Below – Figgy with rescuers Ross Burchard and Jesse Byrne from Home Hardware



FRW recently received a call to the hotline from a concerned member of the public. Kerry had noticed a bird in a tree on Hansen Drive that was entangled with string and flapping trying to free itself but needed help. Sandy Cleeland attended and quickly realised that a ladder would be needed to rescue the Figbird.

Sandy was unable to find any members in the area who were able to assist so, in desperation, she tried contacting local businesses who may have access to a ladder. After a few calls she was lucky enough to get onto Sylvia from Home Hardware in Prosemine.

Within a very short period Sylvia organised for two Home Hardware employees (Ross Burchard and Jesse Byrne) to come out and assist with the rescue. They arrived equipped with a ladder and a pair of scissors to cut the string. Ross dimbed up and rescued Figgy saving him from a slow and painful death.

Figgy is now in care with Sandy and she hopes he will make a full recovery. Thank you to all those who helped to save Figgy's life and a special thank you to Sylvia, Ross and Jesse for their assistance.

The services FRW provides to both our native wildlife and the community are undertaken by unpaid volunteers and FRW receives no government funding. Without the invaluable assistance provided by our members, local businesses and the community many lives would be lost. Thank you all for caring for our native animals!



Kuranda is near to Cairns and can easily be reached by car (about 1 hour drive from Cairns CCB) or by either the Kuranda Scenic Railway or the Skyrail (www.ksr.com.au). There are so many things to see in one place, so one day is not enough for looking around.

Starting with the fantastic Barron Falls, you can choose to see it from the windows of a train (Scenic Railway was opened in 1886 - the 37 km rail track includes 15 hand-made tunnels, 55 bridges and 98 curves) or you can have a lovely bushwalk on your own.

If you would like to see more of the local natural Fauna and Flora, you might want to choose an Aboriginal Guided Rainforest Walking Tour. There are 6 tours, departing daily from 10:15 to

15:30 at Kuranda. You can see Rainforest birds, animals, learn about them and hear traditional stories that passed on through generations of Djabungay people relating to the area.

At Kuranda you will find many interesting places related to native Australian animals. The Kuranda Wildlife Experience offers a package of entry tickets to the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary, Birdworld Kuranda and the Kuranda Koala Garden. I tried only the Birdworld (www.birdworldkuranda.com) and I can assure this is a fantastic experience for those who would like to see Australian birds. You have the opportunity to hand feed Black Cockatoos, Fig parrots and many more native birds along with some other, exotic rainforest birds from South America, Africa or Brazil. It was interesting to see how many different types of birds can be safely and happily housed in a "small" about 25 x 25 m place.

If you prefer to see birds in the wild, you have the opportunity to go for a Bird Watching tour with the locally born and bred David "Chook" Crawford, who offers 1 to 11 days close-up birding adventures (depending on your interest and budget) through Far North Queensland (www.closeupbirding.com.au).

While you are at the Atherton Tablelands - if you have the opportunity - you can visit Tolga Bat Hospital, or just have a drive around to see the beautiful Lake Tinaroo and take a refreshing walk in one of the many rainforests.

You can visit the Caims Botanic Gardens (www.caimsbotanicgardens.com.au), but north of Caims also offers many other opportunities such as Hartley's Crocodile Adventure (www.crocodileadventures.com) or the Night Zoo. You can go further to Port Douglas and the Daintree as well.

South of Cairns you can visit Sugarworld Gardens at Edmonton (www.cairns.qld.gov.au) or going further Paronella Park (www.paronellapark.com.au) where you can see a remarkable dream and also

thousands of bats and microbats. Many places to go and see and I haven't mentioned the Great Barrier Reef yet!

I had a wonderful time at Cairns and I am sure I will go back another time too. I can recommend this place to everyone as a great holiday destination.

Have a happy holiday! Monika Gabor – Treasurer





mullet sized fish. Percy was also becoming more restless and after a long discussion over lunch with Dr Jim & Eleanor Pollock, we decided it would be best to release Percy at the dam, where there were other pelicans and lots of fish. He was still missing some flight feathers on one wing, but we figured that as pelicans are flightless for part of the year anyway, usually the breeding season, he would be ok out there until they grew back properly.

So on October 2nd I loaded the car with one very angry to be handled again pelican, plus 2 ducks due for release (a Pacific Black and a Hard-headed but that's another story) and headed for the dam. As it was a week day it was pretty quiet out there, only a couple of boats.

We found a good spot where there were a few pelicans, swans, ducks and lots of other waterbirds, including a juvenile Brahminy Kite who was eyeing off Percy's dinner, 2 good sized mullets that I had sitting on top of the carrier at this stage.



Article & photo - Jacqui Webb

The two ducks were released first - the Pacific Black duck flew into the water quacking loudly at a



Percy's release site

flock of other black ducks and the little Hard-headed duck waddled off to the water's edge, swimming over to what appeared to be some other Hard-headed ducks.

Then we let Percy out of the carrier and he happily waddled off into the water. Some other pelicans swam over to check him out and watched on with interest. He consumed one fish then was going to pick up the other when

the other pelicans decided to steal it. Well, he

stood his ground and chased the other one away. The Brahminy Kite sat in a tree up above, screeching at us, telling us all to go away as he wanted the fish.

Percy paid no attention to any of us again, happily stretched and flapped his wings and swam out into the dam, looking like one very contented pelican

THANKY

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

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

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

Jason Costigan MP for the printing of our newsletter

FRW would also like to thank the Whitsunday Regional Council for their recent donation of 10 heat beds and some small dog jackets to be used as pouches. The heat beds would suit pinkies such as possums, wallabies or birds. If you are able to use any of these items please contact one of your committee members.



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

XMAS IDEAS

Looking for something a bit out the ordinary for that special someone this Christmas. Below are a few native animal themed gifts that may just make the perfect gift for the animal lover in your family!

My Roadkill sell fun. colourful stickers to help raise awareness of the native animal roadkill problem.

Design your own stickers and as an added bonus 20% of your purchase is donated to an animal welfare organisation of your choice (including FRW).

Stickers start from \$4.95 and are a fun way to help our wildlife

Go to http://www.myroadkill.com.au/

RARE (reuse and recycle everything) make handmade. recycled bags with environmental and social messages.

Stylish and well made these bags make a statement. Prices start from \$85 for the smaller size.

Go to

http://www.rarebagsrecycled.com.au /index.htm

Native Animal Rescue Group (NARG) 2014 wombat calendar A different cute wombat every month and only \$10

Go to http://narg.asn.au/content/wombatcalendars

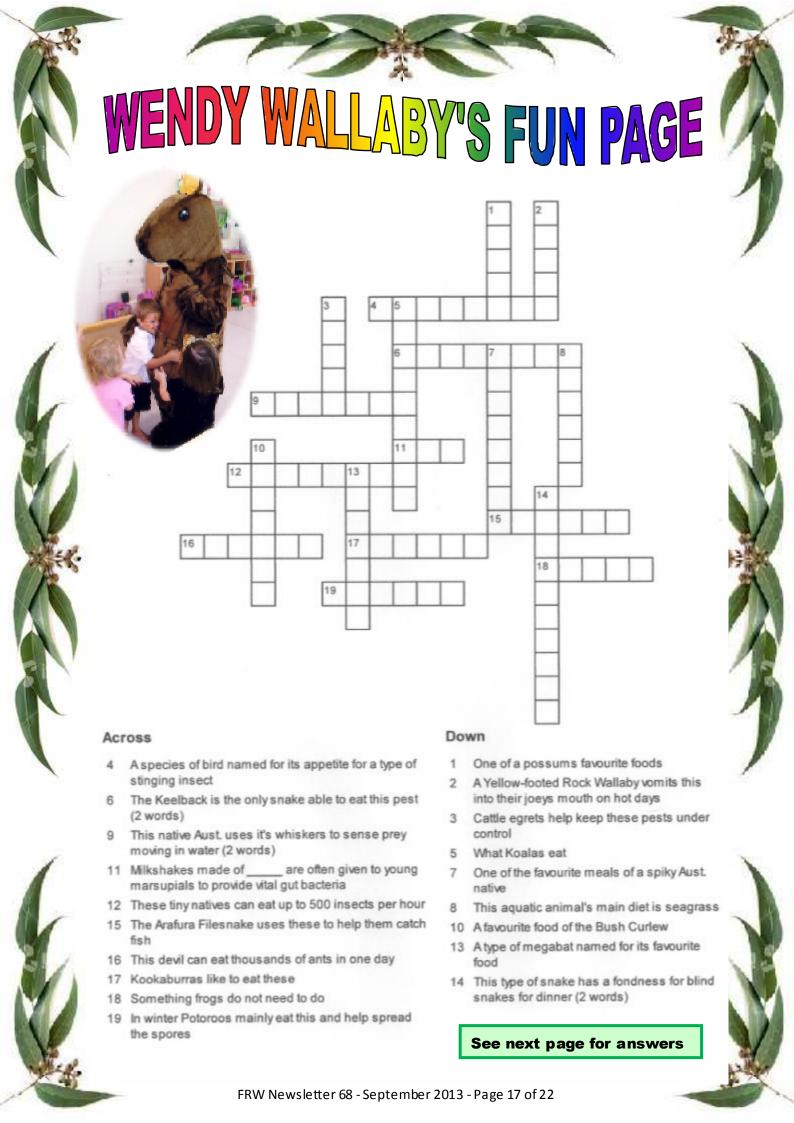
Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Book When You Need a Helping Hand A book for children of all ages with short stories and photos of a variety of native animals-reptiles, birds, marsupials and frogs that have been cared for by Fauna Rescue

Only \$25 - limited opies available Contact one of our FRW committee members for your copy

The Hollow Log Collection have a stunning range of native animal themed gifts designed by Australian artists Go to http://thehollowlog.com.au/

Kangaroo Footprints is a children's information and activity book designed to educate and promote awareness of our amazing macropods. The 75 page book is jam packed with information and activities to suit children aged between 7 and 12. At only \$20 this is a great way for kids to learn about our macropods and the perfect present for native animal loving children. Go to www.kangaroofootprints.com.au

Eco Barge 2014 Calendar A great stocking filler at only \$5. Contact Eco Barge for your copy. Email info@ecobargedeanseas.org.au







DATE	EVENT	WHERE	MORE INFO
Thursday mornings and 3 rd Saturday of each month	Volunteer for Landcare Activities	Various locations	Contact WCL - 4945 0267 for details
3 rd November, 2013 – 1pm	Presentation on Gloucester Island - Working together to understand and protect the Proserpine Rock Wallaby presented by Barry Nolan	QPWS, Cnr Shute Harbour & Mandalay Rds, Jubilee Pocket – Mandalay Rd entrance	Sandy Cleeland – see contacts page for details
9 [™] & 10 [™] November 2013 (10am til 4pm)	Flying Fox workshop presented by Dominique Thiriet	QPWS, Cnr Shute Harbour & Mandalay Rds, Jubilee Pocket – Mandalay Rd entrance	FRW Committee – see contacts page for details
15 th December, 2013 – 7.30pm	Koalas – Slow life in the fast lane documentary	ABC TV	Contact <u>frwsecretary@gmail.com</u> or 4959 1901 for press kit
May 26 th to May 30 th , 2014	Aust. Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference	Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart	secretary@AWRCHobart20 14.org
June 14 th & 15 th 2014	Anne Fowler Workshop	TBA	FRW Committee – see contacts page for details

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



Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Funding Application Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference P.O. Box 806, Cannonvale. Queensland 4802 Email: frwsecretary@gmail.com Website: www.frw.org.au Date Name Residential Address Postal Address Phone Mobile E-mail What funding do you require? Please explain the benefit you will receive from attending the AWRC Please explain the benefit you will bring to FRW from attending the AWRC Signed Date NB: All applications for funding will remain confidential. Office use only (please circle appropriate answer) Date received Received by: post / email Received by (name).... Cost to FRW..... Processed by..... Signed off by Date completed and filed:





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

Whilst the committee is happy to continue to send hard copies on requestif you are happy to receive it by email instead please let me know at rrwsecretary@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:



RETURN ADDRESS:

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

Hotline: 07 4947 3389

