



*Rescue  
Rehabilitate  
Release*



***Wildcare***

Newsletter No. 71

July 2006



*Drawing by Julia Rose*

## Meeting Dates

Thursday 27th July 2006 - 4.00pm  
Business Meeting  
at Tatts Hotel

Sunday 27th August 2006 - 1.30pm  
General Meeting  
at Armidale Tree Group  
(Woodlands Centre)  
Mann Street, Armidale.

Sunday 27th August 2006  
11.00am - 12.30pm  
at Armidale Tree Group (as above)  
Macropod Basic Training  
(To be Confirmed)

Please note this meeting is before the  
General Meeting on the same day.

## Christmas in July

**Fund Raising Dinner  
at the  
Bowling Club - Armidale  
28th July 2006  
6.30pm for 7.00pm  
Cost \$35 per person**

**Please Support  
this Special Event**

Enclosed with this Newsletter are  
several copies of the Flyer for this  
Fund Raising Dinner. Please pass  
on to friends and encourage them to  
attend.

Please try and make up a table or  
group of friends.

Thank you for your support.

## Training

July 29th & 30th 2006 -  
Wires Coffs Harbour  
Possums & Gliders  
Phone Stephen Cross - 6568-5367

# Training Workshop

by Julia Rose

## Rescue Workshop, OH&S and Radio Equipment.

This two day workshop was put together as another step towards operating a Wildlife Emergency Rescue Trailer for New England. It is a NTWC aim to have a team of trained members able to assist the injured native animals after a bushfire. To do this we need to work with NPWS and EMA ( Emergency Management Australia) out on the edge of a disaster. We need to have skills which are acceptable by the organisation involved so they have confidence in us.

This great workshop was put together with the help of Grame Eggleston from EMA, who helped with funding (\$3,200.00). Our Dean Davidson ( NTWC rescue co-ordinator), Glenn Cranfield (NPWS Snr. fire Officer ,Armidale) and Murray Giles (a local Risk Management Consultant) all put together a brilliant program .The venue was at the McCarthy State Office block in Armidale which is also the home office of NPWS so we had very comfortable and well set up training area.

Thankyou to Helen Hulbert who looked after all the catering side, being funded for it all made such a difference.

Now that we know how to keep in contact by radios and we are looking to purchase some equipment as soon as possible. The practise part was held at Imbota N.R.east of town, where we searched and found quite a few 'interesting' animals thanks to Dean who emptied the toy cupboard then proceeded to hide, some a little too well!. Dean has also put together a rescue manual which will become a base document for the rescue team.

cont...

Training Workshop cont..

So thanks again Dean, Glenn, Murray and Graeme for making it all happen. We had hoped the invited members from other local wildlife groups might have joined us to form a good regional team. Sadly this did not happen and we are now looking at gathering a good crew within our own ranks.

## Fundraising

### Sale of Owl Pins

The sale of Owl Pins is continuing for Retina Australia. These sales benefit us from a percentage of the sales.

Owl Pins are \$3 each and are suitable as both shirt and coat pins. Each pin sold provides \$1 for NTWC.



### Owl Pins

Available in five different styles

## Have you got a story or great photo?

**We would love to publish your story and / or photos in this Newsletter.**

**Please share your experiences as a carer with all of us!  
Contact the Editor**

## Picture Gallery



Jarrah - an Eastern Grey male - just loves his pouch! He is now released.



Benji - a Swamp Wallaby male - gets stuck into his lunch. Benji is now in the wild.



Kasey - a female Wallaroo - is just checking out the barbeque before lunch!

## Macropod Report

by Jill Chetwynd

Sadly, we have had quite a few Joeys in for care. This only means that mothers have been killed, mostly from road kill.

From the middle of June until now, we have no less than 8 Joeys come into care. These are:

Eastern Grey	Rebecca Smith
Eastern Grey	Yvonne Campbell
Eastern Grey	Julie / Gary Wilson
Eastern Grey	Julie / Gary Wilson
Red Neck	Carmell Cowin
Red Neck	Julie / Gary Wilson
Wallaroo	Linda Bale
Wallaroo	Jill Chetwynd

I am happy to say that all are doing very well, but that is only because of the wonderful care they are receiving.

Julie and Gary Wilson also have three pinkies, which are going well and 4 Joeys in their pre-release pens.

Carmell still has a Swampy in care, with a broken tail. She will soft release this little one when the time is right.

Jill's little Wallaroo, Kasey - who had the broken foot, is progressing well. Running and jumping everywhere. It goes to prove that it was worth all the angst and heartache to put a macropod through this difficult time.

Being a carer requires many hours of loving care and lots of lovey warm bottles of milk! The Pinky's particularly need so much care, 6 - 8 feeds a day and lots and lots of TLC all day long. Most would not be prepared to take these into care, but these carers deserve a Gold Medal!

With the number of joeys expected to come in over the next few months, we are in desperate need of carers. Please call Jill on 6772-5854, if you can help.

## Koala Care Training Weekend

Presented by  
**Gail Gipp, Manager,**  
Australian Wildlife Hospital

**Saturday 5 August 2006:**  
9.30am – 4.30pm

**Sunday 6 August 2006:**  
9.30am – 3.30pm

**Room L111, Lismore Campus**  
**Southern Cross University**

As koala admissions at the Australian Wildlife Hospital increase, veterinary knowledge, treatments, and care techniques, etc., develop. Join us and keep up with what is happening at the cutting edge.

Saturday's session will deal with adult koalas and Sunday, infants.

Cost for each day: \$20 (includes Morning Tea). Notes will be provided on CD. Paper copy is available at an extra cost.

Bring your own lunch.

**For more information and registration, please contact:**  
**Care Co-ordinator,**  
**Barbara Dobner on 6688 8165**

## New Book

### “Kangaroos - Myths & Realities”

A coalition of citizens and scientists has joined in this book to expose the myths underlying the persecution and exploitation of Australia's maligned national symbol.

264 pages in full colour obtainable from:  
Maryland Wilson.

**Special Price to NTWC \$20.00**  
**Postage: \$8.50 for up to 4 books**

NTWC Club will co-ordinate all orders.

## New place for our native animals to recover

Yaraandoo Eco-Tourist Lodge up near NE Nat park has opened it's 7 hectare feral proof enclosure for carers to put their animals in before a full release.

The area has an electric fence and also a “floppy” top so no ferals will be able to penetrate the area. It has several types of area. Open forest with few trees – heavy woodland - and rocky areas. There is plenty of fresh water in the area.

Carers will also be able to stay overnight for a reasonable rate to make sure their animals are settled in OK. There is onsite, someone to monitor their animals and to feed if needed. There is plenty of food in the area, lush grass as well as snow and tussock grass.

Enquiries contact Julia Rose:  
Ph: 6775-3767

*Thank you to Colin for this info.*



*Photo above:*  
*An interested group,*  
*observing a Bettong in*  
*the new enclosure.*



*Photo left:*  
*A section of the*  
*enclosure showing the*  
*new feral proof fence.*

# **“Petal” Success Story of a Beautiful Eastern Grey**

**by Brian Chetwynd**

Petal came to us as tiny joey some five years ago. A lovely Eastern Grey that may have been born somewhere south of Tamworth. She spent her first few weeks moving around several carers, all of whom gave her special treatment, but could not keep her permanently.

She arrived to us as a friend for Jigsaw, an Eastern Grey male. They soon became inseparable and after release were always together. Sadly, Jigsaw died of tetanus two years ago and Petal was devastated. She grew up as a lone female, never really joining the mob. She grieved always for her soulmate, never forgetting those times together - wild and free. Who said kangaroos don't remember?

Two other little girls, Tulip and Tinkerbelle, soon joined her and she got a new lease of life. Suddenly there was strength in being together and all 3 girls started integrating with the local mob.

Then in November 2005, Petal was being courted by males from the mob and as a five year old, it was quite an experience! Not long after, she gave birth to her first joey and proudly came back to show us. It was a good season, because Tulip and Tinkerbelle also had joeys. What a great thing it is to see your three girls with joeys!

Unfortunately, Tinkerbelle lost her joey some weeks ago and despite us searching for hours, it was never found. Petal's joey is now fully furred, with ears up. It hangs out of the pouch and Petal is so proud that she allows us to touch it. Soon, it will take its first tentative steps into the world. Tulip's joey has just got its head out. Let us all hope that these beautiful animals and their kind survive for future generations.

## **Macropod Carers Needed!**

Macropod Co-ordinator Jill Chetwynd is putting out an urgent call for any person wanting to be a macropod carer. People in the Armidale area are particularly needed.

People are needed for both full time care and also for “baby-sitting” pouch joeys from 1 - 3 days. It is not important that you don't have any experience, as full training will be provided.

Jill intends to do a 1 - 2 hour introduction for people who may be interested. Persons who attend this talk are not obligated in any way and all are welcome. For those wishing to then become carers, a 2 hour basic course is planned for 27th August 2006 (see dates on front page). Jill's husband Brian is preparing presentation material for both courses.

The basic requirements of a carer are:  
Must be prepared to devote a reasonable level of time, as joeys can't be left alone.  
Unfortunately, dogs, cats and young children do not mix well with macropods.  
If you know of anybody, please phone Jill Chetwynd on 6772-5854.



Petal with her new joey

# Report on Scourban

Julia Rose recently received a posting from Ozark on Scourban.

Julia Rose

**From:** Rupert Baker  
[RBaker@zoo.org.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 25 June 2006  
12:19 PM  
**To:** 'ozark@ozark.wild.net.au'  
**Subject:** [Ozark] Scourban

Hello Oz Arkers,

This is my first post.

Scourban is a mixture of:

1. Antibiotics: Sulfadimidine, sulfadiazine, neomycin sulfate
2. Electrolytes: Calcium, Sodium, Magnesium and Potassium
3. Earth clay materials: Kaolin and Pectin
4. Hyoscine: which is a gut motility modifier. It increases segmental contraction of the muscles in the bowel.

We keep it on the shelf but don't use it often.

The hyoscine sometimes helps to reduce the output of diarrhoea but does not fix the problem. It could even make things worse in some cases and there is not evidence that it is or is not tolerated by a range of species.

Tribrissen pigelt suspension is a better bet if you want the Sulfa type antibiotics.

If you want the clays alone use something like pepto-bismyal. It can help to settle and coat the stomach lining. It is the most effective treatment,

other than antivomiting drugs, for sudden onset vomiting in dogs and cats.

Cheers

Rupert.

---

Rupert Baker BVSC(Hons)  
MACVSc(Avian Health)  
Australian Wildlife Health Centre  
Healesville Sanctuary  
Healesville Vic Australia 3777  
T: 03 5956 2880 F: 03 5956 2860

## **NOTE:**

*Many carers will not use Scourban, because it is a real cocktail of drugs. Experience suggests that macropods are best given specific drugs for specific diseases. Scourban is used widely on domestic animals.*

## Goanna Venom?

A report in the April - June issue of Australian Geographic refers to "Goanna Venom". According to the author Elizabeth Ginis, a researcher named Byran, turned his attention last year to Goannas.

He discovered that these lizards produce a similar venom to snakes. Before this ground breaking discovery, it was believed that Goanna bites became inflamed because of bacteria. Unlike snakes Goannas don't have hollow fangs. Their razor sharp teeth provide an entry point for venom, which pools in glands in the mouth.

The researchers found that Goanna venom is packed with all sorts of goodies! They are hopeful of being able to develop new medicines based on lizard toxins. They are excited about the prospects, as one of the components absolutely nails down blood pressure.

No doubt we will hear more about these exciting discoveries in the future.

## Membership is Due

Annual Membership was due in June 2006. It was extended to this date, to bring it into line with NPWS Licence requirements. The amount is \$15.00 single or \$20.00 per family.

**If you have not yet renewed, please do so as soon as possible.**

## Value of Swamps and Wetlands

Few of us realise the important role wetlands, or swamps, as they are often called, play. Would you believe that wetlands dramatically reduce the effect of flooding, as well as store large volumes of water. So it is not surprising that the area around wetlands remains moist for long periods which provides excellent grazing. To stop the system being wrecked by stock trampling water plants and creatures, it is best to fence off the wetland.

Wetlands are also vital breeding sites for fish, waterbirds, frogs and other creatures; especially after rain or flooding.

Like our kidney wetlands remove toxic substances, for instance blue-green algae which would otherwise end up in our rivers and streams.

Paradoxically, wetlands should be allowed to dry out every 3-5 years for two months or more. To simulate natural flood patterns, drying out should be in late summer and autumn, then refilled in spring. The re-wetting stimulates seed germination and breeding of wetland creatures.

See [www.wetlandcare.com.au](http://www.wetlandcare.com.au).

*Many thanks to Jenny for this article*

## Better a Live 'Roo than a "Marsu" Fillet



**by Maryland Wilson**

When it comes to kangaroos, it seems Australians prefer to see "Skippy" on TV rather than flame-grilled on the barbecue. A deep reluctance by Australians to tuck into the national symbol has forced the \$200 million industry to find a new name for kangaroo meat that makes it palatable to domestic consumers. One put forward in a national competition is "marsu fillet" an abbreviation of marsupial.

Of the 300,000 tonnes of kangaroo meat produced each year, 60% is exported to Europe, 20% goes to Australian consumers and the rest is pet food. Many Australians are furious to learn that a \$7 million Russian-backed kangaroo sausage processing factory to turn kangaroos into sausages for export to Russia will open in Queensland at the end of the month. A group of citizens and scientists has authored "*Kangaroos: Myths and Realities*," which exposes the callous failings of recent control programs and the commercial exploitation of meat and hides.

After reading this article, one must wonder at how far we as Australians will go. A recent report suggests some 30 million Kangaroos have been slaughtered in the last decade or two and 3 million joeys.

# Wildcare Contact Numbers

## Tel: 1800 008 290

### Committee

Chairperson	Alan Rose 6734 5241
Vice Chairperson	Harold Heffernan 6778 1357
Secretary	Wendy Beresford 6775 3747
Treasurer	Julia Rose 1800 008 290
Wombaroo	Jenny Nordstrom 6775 3124
	Jill Chewynd 6772 5855
Newsletter	Brian Chetwynd 6772-5855

### Co-ordinators

Armidale:	Julia Rose 1800 008 290
	Wendy Beresford 6775 3747
	Jill Chetwynd 6772 5854
Deepwater:	Carol Rose 67345241
	Marilyn Kennedy 67345397
Tenterfield:	Pam Brice 6736 2462
Glencoe:	Connie Crehan 6733 3259

## Wildcare

P.O. Box 550, Armidale, NSW, 2350



Wildcare is a network of trained volunteers licensed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. We rescue, rehabilitate and release injured, sick, orphaned and unwanted native fauna. If you need assistance with a native animal, please call:

Armidale - 1800 008 290  
Tenterfield - 6734 5241

All donations \$2 and over are Tax Deductible



**Telstra Country Wide Armidale are proud to be a sponsor of Wildcare - local people working together**