



# Rescue Rehabilitate Release



**Wildcare**

**Newsletter No. 73**

**January 2007**



"Henry VIII"  
by Julia Rose

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## Meeting Dates

Sunday 4th February 2007 - 1.30pm

### Annual General Meeting

at Armidale Tree Group  
(Woodlands Centre)

80 Mann Street, Armidale.

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by:

Sunday 4th February 2007 - 2.30pm

### General Meeting

at Armidale Tree Group (as above)

Please note that before the above meetings Training will held (see opposite) and lunch will be available at a cost of \$3 from 12.30pm.

## Training

### Bird Rescue and Care

presented by John Donnelly  
Sunday 4th February 2007 - 9.30am  
Armidale Tree Group, 80 Mann St.

"Determining the cause and what to do"

John will also be covering:

"Basic Handling" and "Observation"  
Training is at 'No Cost' but printed notes are available at \$5.

## A Boobook rescue for an Owl named "ALLY"

by Jan Willis and Gary Wilson

"Ally" owl came into care late on a stormy night, rescued by the local school bus driver, just a few km's from our home. He was all fluff and feet and obviously a baby. Not being bird carers, (we usually raise macropods and possums) we had no idea what type of owl this was, so out came the reference books. After some discussion,



we concluded "Ally" the Southern Boobook Owl, he was a just after he came into care. Southern BooBook.

After my initial intrepidation, (birds have always freaked me out, with squarking and flapping!!) We bit the bullet and started to gently force feed him. Gary held his beak open and he greedily swallowed the little bits of meat. He very soon got the hang of it and started taking food from the tweezers, each time I tapped it on his perch.

A quick call to bird expert, John Donnelly was made, to make sure that we were on the right track. John was great and very helpful with the advice.

Although our aviary is only small, "Ally" settled and was soon feeding on larger pieces of rabbit (kindly provided by Connie and Dave

Crehan, along with plenty of beetles). "Ally" progressed well and was soon perched high,



holding the meat in his claw and tearing it with his beak. "Ally" - enjoying a meaty snack, on the day he went to the flight aviary

How absolutely marvellous this experience was, watching his eyes tracking and zooming in on the food, then tearing at the meat. By now we recognised he was ready for the flight aviary, as he needed to strengthen his wings and learn to hunt his own food.

A quick call to Connie and Dave, and off to Deepwater, to pick up a Wallaroo orphan and then back to Mt. Mitchell. When we arrived back, "Ally" had settled into his new larger 'digs', flying to the highest perch. Time to let go and leave him with Connie and Dave, before heading back with fond memories of "Ally".

## On the Wing

by Connie Crehan

The Flying Fox "Baby" season is well upon us. Thankfully we, in the Northern Tablelands, have been fortunate yet again, not to have experienced any Mass Disasters like a lot of Colonies in the State. In past years many Flying Foxes have lost their lives due to extreme heat. This season

there was also a Mass Disaster at a number of colonies due to the Sudden Cold Snap in November. Coffs Harbour Wires Branch alone had over 50 Flying Fox Pups come into care from the 2 Days



of cold. Many "Jeddah" the Grey Headed Flying Fox at 3wks old. He is now dead when first 11wks and starting to fly.

found but with supply of warmth a number of them infact were alive. Many have suffered pneumonia as a result of this. As I write this article it appears that there are currently Heat Stress Incidents occuring in both Cabramatta Sydney and Singleton. Unfortunately the erratic weather is taking a huge toll on the Flying Fox population.

**Continued on Page 4**

## **From the Editors Desk:**

During the course of putting this Newsletter together, I come across many interesting little facts and snippets of information. The purpose of this column is to report those. It is also my opportunity to thank people for 'stepping out' in the cause of wild life. Sometimes I need to correct errors or apologise for mistakes!

### **Apology:**

Colin Wood very kindly looks after the NTWC website. In our last issue, he inadvertently got the surname 'Turton' We apologise to Colin for this error, which somehow came about from his email address! Sorry Colin - keep up the good work!

### **Special Thanks:**

A really special thank you to Alan and Carol Rose, for the fantastic work they have done on the NWC Steering Committee. Their story appears below.

### **Special Thanks:**

Kate and Andrew Nash are members of NTWC and have done some initial training as macropod carers. They were to have had 'Maddi' and EG female, but due to ongoing problems, this was not to be. Kate and Andrew have made a substantial donation to assist in the expense of the medication for 'Maddi'. Thank you to you both, for your

generosity and thought. "Maddi's' story is continued from last issue on page five of this issue.

### **Congratulations:**

Congrats to Lisa Doucette - NTWC member - who won the Moffat Falls Lodge Raffle, generously donated by Yaarandoo. Lisa is really looking forward to her stay.

### **Wanted - a home:**

Yaarandoo is for sale and the fate of two of its permanent residents, is in the balance. They are a pair of Masked Owls, who need permanent care. Please contact Julia Rose for further information.

### **Clarification:**

Last issue we reported on the story of 'Rocky', an EG male. His carer was actually Rebecca, who is Georgia's mum, but Georgia - who is 10 yrs just loved him. Sadly, we report that 'Rocky' didn't make it, but in his short life, he sure had plenty of love.

### **Back from the Dead!**

A frozen frog found in a Darwin freezer has come back to life. The rock solid frozen frog was noticed to have started breathing a little while after being removed from freezer.

On that note, best wishes to all for 2007. See you at our next meeting.  
Brian

## **Christmas BBQ and Fundraiser Success**

This event was held on 19/11/06 at the home of Julia and Phil Rose. The BBQ and salads were delicious. The weather was perfect and lots of happy people attended our end of year get together. We had a Chocolate Wheel and raffle working away most of the afternoon, with lots of lovely prizes. Many of these had been very kindly donated by members of our club, as well as Soul Pattinson Pharmacy and Woolworths Liquor store.

A unique way of raising funds was dreamed up by a couple of members and this involved a 'bric a brac' table that sold all of those bits and pieces which are no longer needed, resulting in a plus for our Club.

The total raised for the day was \$740.00, a great amount that will go towards feeding and rehabilitating of our precious Australian wildlife.

A hearty cheer and thank you goes out to Julia and Phil for the use of their garden and also to other club members who cooked a great BBQ and served all that delicious food. Of course a special thanks to all of those who attended.



## “Henry VIII”

### Brush-tail possum ‘rescue and removals’ can have their moments!!

by Julia Rose

Sometimes after trying to persuade a caller to ‘live with a possum’ you just know the possum is at risk if not removed ASAP! This was one of those calls! So I set forth with cage, gloves and towels and drove north out of town preparing myself to remove this ‘easy to pick up’ possum.

What a sight.... A large very sleepy, contented male brush-tail possum was lying on his back in the corner of the book shelf, feet draped up against books and displaying his crown jewels. A sort of ‘King Henry 8<sup>th</sup>’ attitude and me with no camera!

This wasn’t going to be easy at all. Thousands of text books lined shelves from floor to ceiling with space behind... ..and ‘Henry’ was there, quick smart.

The caller stood well back armed with a broom. I removed some books, grumbles about filing came from behind the broom stick - I removed many more books. Pushed books back to block exits, requested a small sturdy box, *yes - the wine bottle box should fit*, removed more books.

Box is good.... got Henry’s bottom in.... *a flat slide over lid would also be good*, remove more books ‘Psychology’ hmmm what does this American accented guy do??? More comments about filing and time being taken. Whoops, Henry squeezed up another shelf and peered at me. Down boy! back into the box.!

Heck... what a job..... really need a big donation for this voluntary work! Comment from behind broom ..... ‘you must feel good about rescuing another native animal’

Yeah right, need more room, remove more books. Nearly there .... head down boy, squeeze the lid on, slide off shelf, WOW! what a weight, this is a big one! Outside to put him into a cat carry cage, box. He just fits in. *Do you have the brochure I brought in? Wildlife Carers would love a donation and*

*we can give you a tax deduction receipt ?? Don’t forget to plug up all those entry spots I found, as soon as possible. I walked past 3 Mercedes Benz cars carrying the big weight.... ‘Thanks, good luck with the possum’ ....( yeah right!).....bye.....*

### On the Wing - Continued from page 2

In care we currently have one Grey Headed Flying Fox Pup, (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), named Jeddah (see photo P.2). He came in from Jennings (near Wallangarra). Creche intake for him will be 28th January. This little guy has had a huge battle during his time in care. He had a Hernia caused by Twisted bowel and Testes and underwent surgery at 4 weeks old. I have now been caring for Flying Foxes for 6 Years and the one fact which still amazes me is their preferred diet. In care they mainly eat fruit once introduced to



Microbat (*nictophilus geoffroyi*) Lesser Long Eared Bat and came into care at 2 days old.

solid food, yet whenever they have blossom placed on the “Batmobile” they feed on it with relish and will regularly ignore all other food for hours. It goes to show that it is only when other food is scarce that they turn to fruit and orchards.

The best advice I can give is if they are raiding your orchard provide flowering Native Trees (eg Bottlebrush, Banksias and Eucalypts) that are flowering when your fruit is ripening and they will feed there in preference to your fruit, this food source will also encourage many nectar feeding birds to your home.

Over the past few months there have been 4 rescues of Microbats, 2 were concussed and after being in care for the day both were released the same night.

The baby in the photos (above) was found with a couple of other dead babies nearby. It makes me think that there was an underlying problem.



This photo and above were taken at 1 wk old. Very suddenly he lost his battle

## “Miracle Maddi” A brave EG struggles for life

Last issue, we reported on “Maddi”, an EG female, who had a broken calcaneus (heel) pinned by local Vet Ron Raymer, in a 1hr operation. Maddi was plagued with gut flora problems and thrush, as she battled the long course of anti-biotics.

After 2 months, she was on the mend, putting on weight and doing pellets. She was even enjoying the ‘mad half hour’ run! Suddenly, she slowed down, her leg was inflamed and hot, she was having trouble standing and hopping. An X-ray revealed



“Maddi” at 6Kg  
Looking to a bright future

the onset of osteomyelitis - an infection in the bone. The prognosis was grim and we were faced with the difficult decision of euthanasia. We opted to try a 28 day course of Antirobe, (oral clindamycin) a very expensive

drug, but the only hope for “Maddi”. We knew that this could bring both gut flora and kidney problems. “Maddi” responded and her health slowly returned. Never once did she look like giving up, enjoying



“Maddi’s” foot on the left (her right) shows the calcification around the break, compared to her normal foot.

her life to the fullest. She has finished her initial course and is now undergoing ‘pulse therapy’, (4 days on and 3 off the Antirobe). She may continue like this for several months, but we are hopeful she is clear of the disease. “Maddi” is now over

6Kg and runs with the local mob. She is free from other problems and although her foot may never be right, she has a great quality of life and hope for the future.

## A Very Special Thanks to Carol & Alan Rose

On behalf of NTWC, I would like to thank both Alan and Carol Rose for their sterling efforts as NTWC rep on the NWC steering committee and Council. Attending meetings in Sydney and keeping up with the emails and issues within has earned them a good rest.

Major achievements during their term were a blanket insurance cover for member groups, both personal accident and Public Liability. This is now current and all member groups should expect to pay a percentage towards it.

We have applied for a refund from our local insurer and about \$400 will be returned. What NWC has done, is put a really great incentive for all wildlife carer groups to join and make the council even stronger with a ‘unified voice’. Amongst other issues for NWC in 2007 is a NSW data base for groups to copy and use for annual returns. This way a central data base will record our work and the animals involved, bringing in many benefits. NWC has already been granted \$5,000 to achieve this.

The next Council meeting will be February 14th when the raffle of a fabulous ring donated by Carol and Alan will be drawn. Hope you have your tickets!!

As backup rep I am working towards attending this meeting but don’t feel I can cope with the extra responsibilities as the main rep for NTWC.



The Topaz Pendant also kindly donated by Carol and Alan Rose

# Macropod Report

by Jill Chetwynd

The intake of Joey's has quietened down over the last month or so. This can happen for various reasons, one being that the general public do not check road kills. We should try to impress on our family and friends to take the time to check any freshly killed roos to make sure there is not a little joey in a female pouch.

We have a good number of carers at the moment, who put so much effort and time into caring for joeys. Our main problem is that we don't get to meet each other very often, due to the fact that we are many kilometers apart. Many of the joeys coming in do not come through the macropod co-ordinator due to the distance factor. Some carers find it easier to care for very young joeys and some for the older ones. So communication is very necessary and between us all we can cope with most situations.

This has been happening and to be successful we must keep it up.

To enable me to write a macropod report I must have the information on all new joeys, even if they only survive a short time. If you don't have time to phone, write your info on a piece of paper and post it. New joeys, euthanased, died, released, transferred, it is all of this info that I need.

Recent Joey's coming in:

Red neck x 1	...November '06
Whiptail x 1	...December '06
Eastern grey x 2	...January '07
Wallaroo x 1	...January '07
Red neck x 1	...January '07

Quite a few joeys have been transferred around to different carers, some for better release sites in the future and some to give another joey a mate to grow up with.

My postal address is:

Jill Chetwynd  
P.O. Box 1571 Armidale 2350  
Phone: 6772-5854

# NTWC Website: News.

By Colin Wood

Our website has been updated and improved with lots of stuff to help our carers and to inform the general public. All our forms are now online, foster care report form, milk request form, and animal transfer form and now you can go online and put in your "phone call" report.

We are getting lots of people looking at our site. Since September we have had nearly 300 'hits'. We would like to get a database of carers email addresses so we may let all know of any special events and functions that NTWC are putting on. Go to the website at [ntwc.org.au](http://ntwc.org.au) and click on 'register' (at bottom of page)

## **SAVE NTWC MONEY AND A TREE AND GET YOUR NEWSLETTER IN COLOUR.**

We are trying to save some money on postage and cut down on paper usage by sending as many newsletters by email as possible as a PDF file. This way you will get your newsletter faster, save money for NTWC and get it in glorious colour. Send you email address to [turton37@bigpond.com](mailto:turton37@bigpond.com) and the next issue will be sent by email and in glorious colour. All our newsletters can be viewed on-line. There is lots more information on our website, information that will be help for, not just carers, but the general public such as our brochure "Living With Wildlife Caring for Native Animals" a brochure about how the general public can do their bit for our native wildlife and some information about using natural products instead of pesticides in around our house.

Reptile handling course:

In September last year I did a reptile handling with WIRES at Glenreagh. It was very informative and very helpful. Since then I have had several calls from Julia Rose to rescue snakes from some unusual places in hedges under cars. Anybody who has a problem with snakes call Julia.



# Severe Hailstorm Hits Armidale Many Wild Life Injuries

Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2006 - by Julia Rose

Guests for Christmas had just arrived and were settling into Middle Farm Cottage. We were looking at the brewing storm clouds to the south. 'best to put the car under cover ....you never know'. Sure enough some hail arrived then rain. Half an hour later a call came in asking if we could come in to *'pick up a lot of galahs which we have rescued .... a really bad hail storm has just hit'*.

Need boxes, newspapers, big boxes whatever we have, towels, gloves ...phone Wendy for extra help. We set off, half way in I wish I had remembered my boots because to proceed we need 4WD and head lights on just to see. Car tracks were visible through a foot of white hail.... air was white, tree skeletons were cream, quite surreal! Groan ....no camera! Oh help not again !! Found the street and house. Home owners were peering out, some already out on roofs shovelling off big hail stones.

Rescuers told us they had several cages full of galahs in the garage and others were still being collected. Their favourite roost tree had been shredded, as was everything else, what a sight. Many bird bodies were binned so no count was possible, but we collected all we could, some were coming around and there was a lot of screeching happening in the boxes.

Next day more rescue calls so rang ABC and left message about rescue and collection of injured animals. Two pick up sites were set up and we were busy collecting and finding carers. One drop off site was in west Armidale where all was normal, residents were thinking of usual garden jobs. Out east there were no gardens left, no shade, nothing, just piles of hail everywhere and shredded leaf and grass.

Amongst the patients there were not as many broken bones as expected, these

were strapped and isolated in a warmer area then taken to the vet, some for euthanasia sadly. After two days of TLC half of the galahs were looking good enough to release, so off they went. After a week even the concussed ones were brighter. The variety of injured birds included kookaburra, parrot, magpie pigeon and wattlebird. I am sure there were many more not found.

A big thank you to all the helpers: Wendy, Rick and Jessica and Paul and Bernie at Creeklands Vet Clinic. It was a job well done.

Editors Note: The main path of the storm was through the north eastern section of Armidale, up to 1km wide and 5-7kms in length. Other reports coming to hand confirm many bird deaths - particularly smaller species. No Koala or marsupial deaths were reported, although many kangaroos were severely bruised and traumatised for days afterwards.



Hail damage - Photo depicts the depth and size of the hail, with a riverlet running in the centre.



Hail more than 60cm deep and the size of golf balls, piled up in gutters and gardens.

# 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

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