



*Rescue*

*Rehabilitate*

*Release*



***Wildcare***

**Newsletter No. 74**

**April 2007**

## Inside This Issue

**Congratulations  
to  
Harold Heffernan  
incoming President  
of NTWC**

**Thank You  
to retiring President  
Alan Rose  
for 13 years service  
to NTWC**

President Harold has the Reins	... Page 2
Carer Groups Unite	... Page 2
Glen Innes Area News	... Page 2
From the Editors Desk	... Page 3
Award Winners	... Page 3
Yes - Kangaroo	... Page 3
NSW Wildlife Council Report	... Page 4
Macropod Training Dates	... Page 4
Photo Gallery	... Page 5
New Resources	... Page 5
Earth Hour	... Page 5
Devil's Pinch Underpass	... Page 6
Macropod Report	... Page 6
Reptiles in Care	... Page 7

## Meeting Dates

Sunday 22nd April 2007 - 1.00pm  
**General Meeting**  
at Armidale Tree Group  
(Woodlands Centre)  
80 Mann Street, Armidale.

Agenda:

Business Meeting	10.30am
Lunch	12 - 1.00pm
(byo lunch for those attending)	
General Meeting	1.00pm
Guest Speaker	2.00pm
Close	3.30pm

## Training

Basic Macropod Training 19 May 2007  
Macropod Training 25 & 26 Aug 2007  
**Full details of the above on page 4**

Basic Bird Care - Sth Tweed 21 April '07  
Baby Birds - Banora Pt 22 April '07  
NRWC Intro Course 28 April '07  
For further info on the above please phone  
Carol Rose 6734-5241

## **President Harold takes the Reins**

Harold Heffernan of Ebor has been elected the new President of the Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers at the Annual General Meeting, held in February. Harold takes office from the long serving former President, Alan Rose, who retired.

Harold and his wife Shirley are long time carers, having devoted 12 years to the caring and rehabilitation of macropods, quolls, birds and many other native wildlife. They are fortunate to be able to release on their property, "Dinner Flats" east of Ebor. "I'm both delighted and honoured to be elected President," said Harold. "I'll be working hard for our group, to ensure that our native wildlife receive all the help, care and recognition they deserve." he added.

Harold also thanked former President Alan for his hard work over many years.

"Alan has been a tower of strength for our club over many years," he said. "I pay tribute to his hard work and dedication and wish him and Carol, all the best for the future years," commented Harold.

Alan Rose was President of the NTWC for 13 years and has always been a strong advocate for native wildlife. Together with Carol, his wife, they have been very active in many areas, Alan was elected to the State body (NWC) where he was a strong contributor over several years, achieving, among other things, a new Insurance deal for all members.

Harold Heffernan comes in as President at a time when many new members from the northern part of the State are joining up. This gives the NTWC a wonderful network of carers across all major centres in the New England area. Harold will be assisted by new Vice President Brian Chetwynd and Secretaries, Kate and Andrew Nash. Julia Rose continues as our long serving Treasurer.

## **Carer Groups Unite**

The Glen Innes Wildlife Carers Group has united with the NTWC and members got together in early March to introduce themselves.

The meeting in Glen Innes was to discuss the various procedures for rescue and caring, as well as co-ordinating their functions with NTWC. Connie Crehan, Carol Rose and Kelly Stumbles are prominent members who will make sure that our native wildlife in the area will be well looked after. Jan Willis (NTWC member) also travelled to Glen Innes for the get together and she will be running a training day on the 19th May.

NTWC welcomes all the new members from Glen Innes and looks forward to working with them in caring for our precious wildlife.

## **Glen Innes Area News**

Connie Crehan and her fellow carers in the area have busy organising a Fundraising Raffle. They have received tremendous support from the local business community, with a heap of donations.

The 1st prize was a Food Hamper. Donations were received from IGA, Glen Fabric Barn, Salon 242, Timbs Pharmacy, Schafers Newsagency, Central Hotel, Video Ezy, Home Living, Landmark, Jill Park Produce, Graydons Chemist, Crazy Crafters, Stocks, Eastmons, Club Hotel, Glen Innes Vets and Mrs. Judge of Indigo Hill. Thank you to everyone.

The raffle was drawn at the Emmaville races on 17th March and raised some \$500 for the Club.

Connie also reports that all Flying Foxes in care have been released. They have integrated well into the colony and of the 66 released, about 20 have come back. This is a great result.

## **From the Editors Desk:**

Greetings to all. A special welcome to our new President Harold. It is great to see some rain in our region and that's good for everyone, including our wildlife. Jan - Mar rainfalls were above average.

### **Hail Aftermath:**

With gardens laid bare and trees stripped of leaves, most thought it would be years to repair the hail damage. But - no - mother nature proved us all wrong and just a few months later, Armidale is lush and green with regrowth. The birds have returned to rebuild and gardens have flourished. Your Ed. admits to the best crop of tomatoes and beans in years! Some say it's the nitrogen packed in the hail, that acts like a carpet of fertiliser. What do you think?

### **NWC Raffle Winner:**

The winner of the sapphire ring in the recent NWC raffle was Darran Singh of Lismore. The winning ticket was sold by a member of the Northern Rivers Wildlife Group and they were delighted to win the Scanner prize.

### **Newsletter in Colour:**

Our Newsletter is now available on our Website - [www.ntwc.org.au](http://www.ntwc.org.au) - in FULL COLOUR. Be sure to visit and check it out. Thanks to Colin Wood for his good work.

## **Drought and Bush Fires hit Hard:**

Whilst our region has enjoyed rain, this is not so in other parts of the country, where drought bites deeper. Our wildlife are under great pressure, particularly macropods and emus. We must do all we can to protect their numbers and bio-diversity. Recent bush fires have wiped out whole wildlife communities, again placing greater stress on many endangered species. It's time our Government's got proper strategies in place for drought and bush fire management.

### **Good News for the Owls:**

The pair of Masked Owls, from Yaarandoo have found a new home. They have gone to "Featherdale," a wildlife Zoo complex in Sydney. They have great facilities, will be well looked after and will have special breeding opportunities. Thanks to those who organised this.

### **Double Helix Day:**

Thanks to Kate Nash for organising our club to present to the CSIRO sponsored Double Helix group of kids. It was a great afternoon for some 20 kids to learn about wildlife. Presentations came from Connie Crehan (Bats), Lisa Ducette (Raptors), John Donnelly (Birds) and Brian Chetwynd (Macropods). Thanks to all.

Once again, that's it from me. See you at our next meeting. Yours in wildlife.  
Brian

## **Award Winners**

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia announced its Annual Awards in the middle of March. The Society's Community Wildlife Conservation Award for 2006 was awarded to the Friends of the Koala.

This is first time a rehab group has won the Community Award, which was presented at the Society's 98th luncheon at Parliament House. Congratulations to the Friends of the Koala for this coveted Award.

## **YES - Kangaroo**

Since the mid 1980's, the ACT has had a No Kangaroo policy, which effectively prevents wildlife carers from releasing rehabilitated joeys. Both WIRES and Wildcare groups have been pushing to have the policy changed.

Recently, 35 joeys were successfully released in NSW after 12 months of negotiations. Wildlife carer groups around Australia have been asked to help by lobbying the ACT Government.

# NSW Wildlife Council

February meeting update.  
by Julia Rose

There was a very good roll up for this meeting and I think that travel subsidies helped a lot. This was my first meeting as Alans' substitute and I now hand over to our new reps, Connie Crehan and her substitute Carol Rose.

It was good to meet the present council and gain an insight of the workings within. What a tremendous job they are all doing! To achieve 'blanket' insurance for member groups is such a relief for all us wildlife carer volunteers trying to raise funds and be insured. This saves us many \$'s which we can now put towards other worthy needs. I do however feel all member groups should pay a membership fee to help this council with its costs, it would also be more of a commitment to NWC.

Highlight of the meeting was the drawing of the Valentines Day ring raffle (donated by Alan and Carol Rose). This was won by a members' boss (NRWC) and raised \$1,826.00 for NWC which was fabulous. The scanner was also won by NRWC.

On the NWC 'to do' list is:

- Apply for Tax Deductible status. This may not be possible after questions have been raised when public monies are used to lobby governments.
- Changes to the 7 day rule by NPWS; this is to reduce to 48 hours for holding native animals without a licence.
- State wide data base: Looking into using the present WIRES data entry system.
- NWC logo: It is getting closer, several were presented but none were approved.
- Education: a list of available accredited trainers is being compiled.

- Issue of 'town councils and wildlife carers being on site for habitat clearance'.
- Statewide phone number for rescue information.

If there are any issues you feel need to be taken to NWC, talk to Connie and Carol. Next meeting is to be held in June over 2 days.

Guest speakers at the meeting were from WAIF. Project leader Judith Hallinan and Animal Health officer Derek Spielman from Uni of Sydney dept. of Vet Pathology. They spoke of the emergency assistance for wildlife that WAIF is set up to provide. For example major disasters such as fire and heat stress events in flying fox colonies.

Other areas they support are in research and education. Courses are conducted for carers in regional areas as well. There is an animal clinic for the Sydney region at Dr. Michael Eatons' surgery on Mona Vale Rd, St Ives. This clinic welcomes calls from country vets needing a second opinion.

WAIF contact number is 02 9456 0452 and email address is [enquiries@waif.org](mailto:enquiries@waif.org)

## Training Dates

Please mark the following Training Dates in your Diary (new carers welcome).

### **Macropod Training Course**

Sue Ulyatt - using Wires manual  
25th & 26th Aug. 2007 at NWPS Armidale  
Cost \$20 - \$12 Notes - \$5 Lunch

### **Basic Macropod Training**

(Rescue, Identification, Caring, Housing, Release and Paperwork requirements)

Jan Willis & Gary Wilson  
19th May 2007 9am - 3pm  
NPWS - Glen Innes - Cost \$10

For info and bookings, please phone:

Carol Rose 6734-5241  
Connie Creehan 6733-3259  
NTWC 1800-008-290

# Picture Gallery



*Being taught how to hunt for dinner.  
These Tawny's are preparing for the night.*



*"Miss Kate" a healthy Wallaby girl.  
Getting ready for release from her pen.*



*The 'eyes' have it.  
2 1/2 yr old "Jarrah" an EG male - up close*



*"You're in my territory!" says this Alpha EG male  
This 8 -10 yr old is at his peak and wont be challenged!*

## New Resources

Linda Dennis of Fourth Crossing Wildlife advises that she has a number of new resources available for carers. These include new software for kangaroo carers, echidna caring, pelicans and orphaned flying foxes.

Our thanks to Linda for making these available. Please visit their website for a full list of all of these resources:  
[www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com](http://www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com)

## Earth Hour

Hands up all of those who turned their non-essential lights out on Sat 31st Mar between 7.30pm and 8.30pm?

Some 65,000 Sydney households and 2000 businesses participated in the WWF sponsored program to focus on Climate Change. As wildlife carers, it is important for us to recognise that some 70 species of our native flora and fauna could be extinct within 50 years - a bad legacy to leave.

## Devil's Pinch underpass wildlife tunnel.

This magnificent construction is under the newly aligned New England Highway on the Devils Pinch north of Armidale. In the 2001 environmental impact survey the area was identified as a wildlife corridor in the Species Impact Statement. Measures taken to lessen the road impact were to construct the wildlife tunnel and erect 'floppy top' exclusion fencing either side to guide animals under. Six years later the road has opened and the fencing is finally completed. Thankfully after the new fencing was put up it has been an observation by NTWC members who regularly travel this new section, that there has been a reduced number of wildlife road fatalities.

So the time had come for an inspection. As you can see from the photographs it is really something. We estimate it to be 7-10 meters tall and probably the same wide. During the day it is well lit from both



*Phil Rose inspecting the Devil's Pinch underpass tunnel for wildlife. A positive outcome that will reduce road kill of a our wildlife.*

ends which provides good vision of the outward end for travelling animals. I expect insectivores bats will begin to roost in there soon. It was very difficult to tell what wildlife used this new passage as the soil had been washed over during recent rains and there are no sand beds for imprints. From a wallabies point of view gaining access to the tunnel looked difficult. There was another difficult netting road easement fence to negotiate on both sides. A koala would also need to negotiate these fences to approach the tunnel, then having made it to there it would be hoping no predator lay in waiting. Our only suggestion is to have a few forked 'escape trees' inside the tunnel. These suggestions will be made to the RTA and our wish to monitor the underpass usage by wildlife. Graffiti artists have already arrived .

Our congratulations must go to RTA and all involved (including all taxpayers who paid for it) because this shows a commitment to saving native animals.

## Macropod Report

Macropod Co-ordinator Jill Chetwynd reports a very quiet period for incoming joeys.

Currently, Jan Willis has 6 EG's, 2 Rednecks and 2 Wallaroos in her pre-release paddock. She also has two pinkies in care.

Jill also reports an update on Maddi, the EG that had the foot operation. (reports in the last 2 Newsletters) Maddi is being soft released, in fact she has never had the gate closed and has benefited from being able to learn about her habitat, before release. This is partly due to the fact that her foot and tendon should be protected from the 'fright and flight' reaction of EG's. Maddi is doing very well and now spends much of her time outside, particularly at night, where she is learning the smells and sounds in 'running with the mob.'

# Reptiles in Care

Contributed by Julia Rose

## Common Eastern or Northern Blue-tongue Lizard.

To be correct:

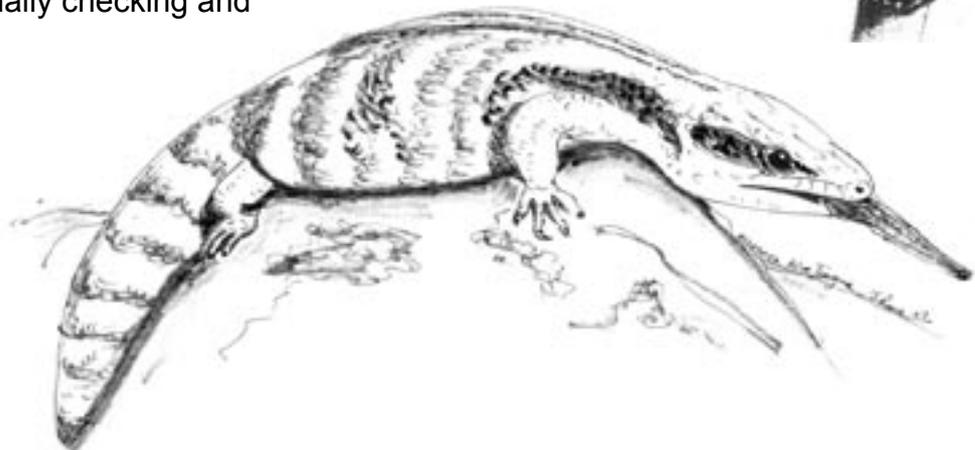
**Class; Reptilia, Order; squamata, family; scnicidae, genus; Tiliqua**

I recently attended a Reptile care training course with David Vella (BSc BVSc) which was held in Tamworth by WIRES and we were all encouraged to get into the habit of correct identification. In the near future all our 'call' information will be included in a larger data base, so this skill will be important. I urge you all to give it a go!

Here are some new and updated ideas in treatments for injured reptiles.

- A MUST, is for carers to have clean hands before and after handling reptiles.
- Use Microshield (Johnson & Johnson) and Dermasoft gel products.
- Rehydration via gastric tube is vital for reptiles too. Even for snakes but ONLY by those trained handlers. Use warmed Hartmans solution for animals which have been warmed to their preferred body temperature.
- Medihoney is a useful wound packing treatment. Duoderm paste is another dressing which can be sealed over with Opsite adhesive dressing. Wounds will need daily checking and changing.

*Drawing of a Blue Tongue lizard by Julia Rose*



- Tar can be removed with Ungvita ointment.
- Clean all wounds with 0.1% povidine iodine, animals can be soaked in a bath of weak, warmed solution for deep wound care.
- Great suggestions were made for 'dry docking' turtles with carapace fractures. By setting up a housing container with a false floor and sunken water / feeding bowl.
- For overlapping fractured turtle shell segments, surgical trimming under sedation and connection by realigning is recommended. Damaged or non-vital sections are better removed.
- Beware of maggot infestation and remove by flushing well with 0.1% povidine iodine, repeat until all are removed. Fly screen the enclosure.

The two days were packed full with information and included first draft of new Reptile and Amphibian care notes edited by David Vella.

*Drawing of a Diamond Python snake by Alan Rose*



# 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 Chetwynd 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

The Wildcare Newsletter is designed and printed by  
Crystal Photo Art P.O. Box 1571 Armidale NSW 2350  
Ph: 6772-5854 Email [ccolour@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ccolour@bigpond.net.au)  
We print full colour posters, leaflets & brochures



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