



*Rescue  
Rehabilitate  
Release*



***Wildcare***

Newsletter No. 72

October 2006

### **Vale**

#### **Steve Irwin - Wildlife Warrior**

Australia and the world has lost a great man. Wife Terri and Bindi and Bob have lost a husband and a father. We have all seen and heard the eulogies and praise for a person that became a legend, admired by tens of millions around the world.

For us, as wildlife carers, the loss of Steve is very tragic and even personal, because his love for animals, outweighed all else. Australian wildlife has lost its greatest advocate. Sadly his death has highlighted the precarious position of our native animals.

It is now up to all of us to keep his dream alive, by preserving the habitat and wildlife, that he devoted his life to. Vale - Steve Irwin, wildlife warrior.

### **Meeting Dates**

Sunday 5th November 2006 - 2.00pm  
Business Meeting  
and Working Bee (for BBQ)  
at Julia Rose's home.

General Meeting  
As of going to print, no General Meeting  
date has been set.  
The next General Meeting will be advised.

## **Fund Raising**

### **BBQ**

**In the garden of the home  
of Julia & Phil Rose  
at "Carwell"**

**236 Middle Farm Rd  
Armidale**

**19th Nov 2006**

**11.30am**

**Cost \$5 entry fee  
\$10 for a BBQ lunch  
(per person)**

**Please Support  
this Special Event**

**Bring family & friends**

### **Our Website**

**[www.ntwc.org.au](http://www.ntwc.org.au)**

**Please visit us**

**Our sincere thanks to Colin Wood  
for building & maintaining this site.**

## **Are Koalas Returning to Local Habitat Areas**

Rebecca is a macropod carer, in the Armidale area, who currently has a male EG named Rocky. She is a strong advocate for native wild life and is doing all she can to protect local populations and habitat. She recently had an exciting "Koala experience!" Sightings are becoming more common and the question that must now be asked is: "Is there some recovery in local Koala populations? If so what can we do to assist this recovery?"

Here is Rebecca's Koala encounter:

One evening about two weeks ago as I was driving home from Armidale (along the Herbert Park Road), my children and I saw a large mound on the middle of the road. As we approached in the vehicle it became clear that our mysterious "mound" was in fact a very large Koala.

We have seen koalas on this road before but never as "up close and personal" as this encounter. It was an amazing experience as he remained perched on his bottom and just stared at us as we got out of the car to have a closer look. He remained in this position for a few minutes and then strolled off the road (thankfully) and climbed a tree. He then sat in the tree at just above head level and continued his study of us, quite unperturbed by the headlights and our excited discussion.

The conversation for the rest of the drive home was based on the fact that we have not sighted any koalas on our property, or on any nearby land, but, what could we do about to encourage them? They are obviously in the area and we would dearly love to accommodate them on our property but would need to link our land with the koala habitat.

We are now looking into creating a corridor

of suitable vegetation and would love to hear from the experts out there about what we would need to do ie. suitable species of trees and any other bits of information which could be useful etc.

We have had a quick discussion with one of our neighbours and they are keen to do the same, so hopefully we may be able to make it happen!

NOTE: Rebecca would love to hear from any Koala expert about what she and her neighbours can do to make their properties Koala friendly. If you can help, please phone Jill on (02) 6772-5854 and she will put you in touch with Rebecca.

## **Macropod Training Day a Great Success**

On Sunday 27th August a Macropod Basic Training session was held at the Woodlands Centre, prior to our General Meeting.

It was a great success with about 10 interested people arriving for a "hands on" session. The training was broken up into several segments, each one conducted by a member of NTWC. The idea was to give those attending and insight into the issues of raising and rehabilitating macropods.

Jill started the morning of, with an overview of pouches, feeding equipment and other necessary items. She also demonstrated feeding and toileting techniques.

Brian dealt with the subject of faeces and urine, as well as ailments common to macropods. He also demonstrated how to pick up, hold and handle macropods.

Julia gave an interesting talk on diseases and wildlife rescue techniques. The morning was then rounded off by Gary and Jullie, who proudly showed off their 4 beautiful joeys (some still pinkies).

# The NSW Wildlife Council

“Who are we - What we do”

The NWC was formed as the peak State wide body to represent wildlife groups and therefore, the members of these groups in NSW.

Council meets four times per year in Sydney. The Council is forging a closer working relationship with the Dept. of Environment and Conservation, by expressing the needs and concerns of NSW carers.

Our local member, Alan Rose, represents NTWC on the Council and does a splendid job. It is therefore very important if any person has concerns, they should contact Alan, so that he can voice the opinion of our Club.

This is a major milestone for wildcare and we should all thank Alan (and his wife Carol) for the effort that they put in to attend these meetings in Sydney.

## Wildlife Conference Papers available online

The papers from the 2005 Conference are available on the website. the link is:

[www.nwrc.com.au/html/2ks\\_papers.htm](http://www.nwrc.com.au/html/2ks_papers.htm)

There is also some detailed information on the 2006 Conference - just held in Darwin.

## WANTED!! Photos & Stories

We are always looking for photos and stories for our Newsletter. What do we want? Photos of native birds, reptiles and animals - particularly if they have been rescued. Maybe they are with people - so grab your digital camera and take a photo! As for stories - just like you're reading now!! Everybody has a story to tell.

Phone Brian on 6772-5855.

## Bits 'n Pieces of News and Info.

### 'Plant a Tree for "Mike" Day' Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 11am. at the Woodland Centre Mann St

This is a day to remember Mike O'Keefe who did so much for the New England environment, especially wildlife habitat. You are invited to come to the Armidale Tree Group to participate on this special day.

The planting area will be near the weather station at the rear of the Woodland Centre. The idea is to make a Tax deductible donation towards a ride-on mower which is needed to maintain the area.

Lunch will be provided and a plant of your choice which you then add to the memorial garden. NTWC will also have a small display so helpers are needed.

Call Julia on 1800 008 290 or Robert on 67711620 for more information. (Bring planting tools and sun protection)

### Thanks to Colin Wood

A very special thank you to Colin who has set up our website (address on front page). Colin also maintains the site and posts our Newsletter for all to read. We really appreciate his effort and encourage you all to visit the site and send the link to all of your friends.

### Inspection of Devil's Pinch (Guyra)

Julia Rose and several others will be inspecting the wildlife access points and fencing of this newly built section of the New England Hgy. This section is in a well known Koala and Macropod habitat area. The RTA have built an access tunnel and our now constructing a special fence.

### Fund Raising Raffles

Our NTWC raffle for a weekend at Moffat Falls, will be drawn on the 19th Nov 2006. The NSW Wildlife Council raffle for a ring will be drawn on 14th February 2007. We encourage you to buy tickets in these raffles and support our wildlife.

# On the 1800 Line!

## My 10 days as the 1800 number lady

by Jan Shepherd

When I moved into town from my rural location a few years ago, I saw it as a great opportunity to bring the NTWC name into greater prominence and displayed my sign with enthusiasm. As expected, I began taking delivery of birds en masse (what does one do with a sodden sparrow or a baby starling.....?). Along the way I have been blessed with some beauties – dollar birds, galahs, echidnas and eastern greys amongst them. But I found it tough to turn away George the guinea pig with a wicked case of mites and nearly no hair, so he stayed, had a couple of doses of Ivomec and wore a body sock for a few weeks to stop him cutting himself as he scratched. Now he is fit and healthy and living with my friend up the road.

It was a busy day in my house when a young man brought a fuzzy white kitten to my door. Wildlife takes many forms when you live in town! 'Pop her in the bathroom and I'll deal with her later.' I said to the children. I never did quite deal with her, and so Flossie is now almost 3 years old and she mostly lives on my bed. The original scaredy cat, she never ventures outside and likes to watch the world from the safety of her spot on the windowsill.

But, enough was enough. I was busy and so down came the sign. It's been down for a couple of years now and I have tried valiantly to become a dormant member of the club. But people, like elephants, have long memories. Just a few weeks ago, someone brought me an eastern grey just out of the pouch with a damaged back. No hope there. The birds keep piling in and now I am getting snake calls.

It was probably no surprise, then, that Julia asked me (pleaded with me?) to take on the 1800 number while she was away. I think I said something along the lines of 'Um, ah, um, no, um, okay.' Julia's relief was palpable and so I said 'when are you going?' When she said 10am, I looked at my watch, realised there was less than 2 hours to brace myself and so I sat and listened to my instructions:

- Baby magpie season is just about over and so you should not have too much trouble with them;

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- Don't climb any ladders – use the SES for that;
- It was quiet last week so you could be lucky this week;
- Every call is a potential new carer;
- Here's my mobile if you are really stuck.

Within an hour I'm chatting to the Armidale Police about training up some new snake handlers. 'Yes please, here are the course dates and here's the lady's number. Call her and book in.' By the end of November, the Armidale Police will have two new snake handlers in addition to our newly trained member. Success. Gee I'm good at this job.

Ring ring ring. My children think the phone itself is injured when a 1800 call comes through because it has a very distinctive sound. The Armidale Vet Hospital have a baby magpie. I tell them they could not possibly have one of those because Julia told me the season was mostly over. Sheree tells me otherwise and so off I go, in between dance classes, and ferry said baby magpie to Jenny at Arding. Jenny gleefully pops the new baby in with an existing magpie baby and hopes for some magpie to magpie education sessions in the cage. Success. Wow, I'm good at this job.

It's ten to midnight on my first day as the 1800 lady. I'm snuggled in my bed. Ring ring ring. The phone needs rescuing again. On the end of the line is a delightful young man called Jamie. He has picked up an injured Banjo Frog. The middle bone of one of his legs is smashed. I quickly search the depths of my brain for anything I know about frogs in general and Banjo Frogs in particular. But all I can come up with is a tune called Duelling Banjos and I am fairly sure that won't help me now. Jamie tells me he has set the frog up in a tank with water and crickets and has put him in a quiet, dark place. As luck would have it, Jamie keeps frogs for a hobby. Relieved, I tell Jamie he is by far the best man for the job, give him a call number for said frog and remember my instructions.....'Jamie, would you like to become a carer?' He would love that. So look out for Jamie at future meetings. Our new frog man. Success. I think I was born for this job. It is the end of day one and my son can now identify a Banjo Frog.

Fortunately day two passed uneventfully, as I

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## Go Rocky!

had to work and my husband was in possession of all the rescue rules.

Day three dawned with the now familiar ring ring of the 1800 number. It's Andrew from the SES with a magpie stuck in the roof of the airport service station. It's 4 to 5 metres up in the air. I head for my list of rules.....'don't climb any ladders – use the SES for that.' Our multi-talented NTWC/SES member, Lisa, joins Andrew and a little over an hour later, whilst I am in the movies with the children, Lisa calls to report a successful rescue and subsequent release of said magpie. I've done nothing but I still think I'm pretty good at this job!

Resting on my laurels, at 9.15pm, I sit down to browse on ebay when Andrew from the SES calls again. There's a koala in Markham Street and it has been baled up by a dog. I moan, envisaging the poor thing negotiating the Markham St/Barney St roundabout, or waiting for the train to pass before it makes its perilous journey across the tracks. It transpires, however, that said koala is up near the rugby park and reserve land towards Snow Gums estate. It has managed to make its way 30 feet up a gum tree and we all rejoice in the knowledge that we have a healthy koala roaming the treed areas of our town.

It is the morning of my 4<sup>th</sup> day as the 1800 lady and I get a joyous call from the lady with the koala to say that he is happily snuggled in the tree, way up high. And do you know what?.....I did nothing but give reassurance and I feel so proud of me!

Here I am now at the end of my stint as the 1800 number lady and I really feel like I have made a difference in people's lives. I have taken in a few birds, the latest being a gorgeous king parrot that currently sits in a cage at my place, fielded many snake calls and even found myself sympathising with the black snake up Lawrence Avenue. I have learned a lot and now have an unparalleled respect for Julia and the hours she puts in as the 1800 number lady.

But the best thing of all is that I would do it all again. So if you get the chance to be the 1800 person, stick your neck out and take it. Don't be afraid....you know more than you think you do. You can make a big difference in people's lives....and in yours.

The end

My name is Georgia Smith, I am 10 years old and I live on a property east of Guyra. I am a carer of an eastern grey joey called Rocky and have been looking after him for four months.

When I first laid eyes on Rocky he was as pink as strawberry ice-cream. He was curved up like a big banana in his mother's pouch. My dad pulled him out of the pouch and handed him to me I put him in my coat. As we drove home I felt sad because he had lost his mum but happy, as I knew he had a chance to live. When we got home I showed mum then we looked for something to put him in. It wasn't very hard to find something. We put him in a calico shopping bag and a jumper and hung him by the fire to keep warm.

In the morning my parents didn't think that keeping Rocky was a good idea because he was so small. I was still filled with strength and hope and wanted to help him. When I thought that I couldn't keep Rocky it made me very sad because I knew that I could give him a chance. Mum was listening then she did something marvellous and asked Dad to get some Wombaroo and Lactade. He said "alright *then*" and left for work. I went up to mum and gave her a hug and said "thankyou so much mum!" After only a few days Rocky grew some hair on his body and he started to hop. On special days I was able to bring him to school at Bald Blair. Every one adores him even the Japanese teacher. They all thought he was very cute. One day my friend noticed Rocky was eating grass for the very first time!

When I take care of Rocky it's really special (even though sometimes I get sick of feeding him every 4 hours) it is a gift.

Right now Rocky is a bit sick but I will not lose faith and hope because I saved him from death once before and I'll do it again!

Georgia  
with Rocky  
the EG  
male.  
(Georgia's  
Mum,  
Rebecca is  
the actual  
Carer and  
a Club  
Member.)



# The Miracle of a Wallaroo Birth

**How many of us have ever witnessed this incredible event? Even many long time carers have never seen a birth. Lee and Jenny are carers up Tenterfield way. They have been privileged to have seen this miracle - here is their story, as told by Lee.**

On the 30th June this year, something incredible came to us from “wally” world - the wonderful world of the Wallaroo. Those who have raised these endearing macropods, know they have real attitude. Sometimes precocious, even feisty, but always loyal and lovable. They are the true individuals of the macropod world.

Meg is a female “wally” that we have raised from a tiny joey of just 946 gms. She is now fully grown and released on our property.

On this particular evening, she came to our door, clicking and pacing. She was behaving strangely and quite agitated. I let her inside to see what the problem might be, and to assess if something was wrong. She ignored me and went straight over to Jenny, who was on the phone. She began pawing and grabbing at Jenny’s legs to the point where she actually pulled her pants down! (just a quick interjection here ... always wear clean underwear!!)

Meg was now getting more and more agitated and kept grabbing at her cloaca and puffing. She didn’t seem to know what to do with herself and we were getting quite worried. Jenny sat down on the floor with her and we tried to comfort her and see what was wrong. We thought she was sick in a major way.

All of a sudden Meg dived straight into Jenny’s lap several times (as if she was hopping into a pouch). Finally, she was comfy, sitting back on her tail (like a “wally” does). She had her back against Jenny’s

front and appeared more comfortable. I was trying hard to “zoom in” for a closer look - at who knows what? Jenny’s face changed from surprise to horror ..... there was an awful lot of clear, warm fluid where there once wasn’t anything. Both of us thought ooooh???! - but - there was more to come.

An oval shaped, clear jelly blob came out of her cloaca next and then to our horror, this was followed by a watery, looking blood substance. Watching in terror, we both uttered one of those near silent screams, a sort of ... ewwwwww!!! What happened next, is still one of those rare situations where you think - did I really see that? Maybe I should have my medication levels checked!!

Very quickly, out of Meg’s cloaca, popped a tiny pink, well ... ummmmm? (I always think the worst and just assumed it was a really nasty tumour, from a super serious affliction). But, then this tiny object sprouted arms! Meg was immediately licking a trail up the outside of her pouch and this ‘lil “jelly bean” scrambled up and went inside. It was all over in under 5 minutes.

Meg was totally exhausted and we were somewhat perturbed, not sure how her “pinkie” (it was actually nearly transparent!) was feeling, but we relaxed, when Meg lay down. She was so tired, that she slept heavily all day. When she woke up she was ravenous and off she went with her “wally” girlfriends, down to the creek. (I think they had a tupperware party that evening!!)

What a fantastic thrill. Meg still comes to visit every day and her pouch is growing. Soon we hope to see a little head. Oh, by the way, Jenny’s white pyjama pants, (the ones she was wearing during the birth) will never be quite the same again!

Thanks to Lee for this graphic account of the miracle of a macropod birth. We can all imagine how they felt, but Meg’s trust in Lee and Jenny says it all.

## Maddi's Story

by Jill Chetwynd

Maddi was picked up just west of Armidale by a good samaritan, early one morning, some months ago. When she came to us, she was quite stressed and unfortunately, had a broken heel.

Ron Raymer of Creeklands Vet Clinic, once again came to the rescue and pinned the bone in an hour long operation. Maddi was just 1.7Kg, but pulled through and has made a good recovery. But the stress of several operations, combined with anaesthetics and antibiotics, has not helped. Her gut flora is badly depleted and she is still trying to produce pellets. A bout of Thrush in the middle of all of this has not helped, but we are hopeful of a full recovery.

Maddi was to go with Kate and Andrew, however, it was thought best to keep her in view of her fragile condition. Maddi is a real fighter and if any one can pull through after so many problems, it will be Maddi! She now weighs in at 3.6Kg and is improving.



Female Eastern Grey - Maddi  
"Out and about to explore her world"

## Macropod Report

by Jill Chetwynd

The past few months have been a very busy time, with a number of Joey's coming into care.

Over the past 8 weeks, we have recorded the following coming in:

- 8 Eastern Grey females
- 1 Eastern Grey male - just furring
- 1 Redneck wallaby

Most are going well and below are details:

One female EG - Maddi - came in with a broken heel bone (culcaneous). Quite a nasty break, but tendons still attached. (See her story opposite).

A beautiful EG male weighing in at only 1.1Kg - just furring - was picked up at the Pinch. He certainly missed his Mum, but he was full of beans - a "King" in the making. After 48hrs of stabilisation and a thorough checkover, he went to Tenterfield to live with Lee and Jenny. They decided to name him "Irwin" in memory of Steve Irwin. Latest reports indicate "Irwin" is in great health.

At the close of our last meeting an "at foot" EG female was handed in. Most of us suspected a broken neck or back. Shirley and Harrold were great and provided much TLC over several weeks. She did seem to improve and was very responsive and happy. Regretfully, an X-ray confirmed a broken back and she had to be euthanased.

Unfortunately also, Neptune, a male Wallaroo died of Pindone poisoning - a rabbit bait, laid out by a neighbour. Jill and Brian were devastated to loose this healthy joey under such awful circumstances.

Rocky, a male EG is now recovering well after a bout of Thrush and Diarrhoea. Rebecca reports that his treatment and probiotics have worked well. (see story on Page 5 by Georgia Smith).

# 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**