



Rescue Rehabilitate Release



Newsletter of The Northern Tablelands
Wildlife Carers issue No 101 November 2013
1800-008290 ntwc.org.au committee@ntwc.org.au

20th Anniversary Issue

Many of the articles in this issue are from some of our original newsletters

NTWC TWENTY YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

The 20th Anniversary of The Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers was celebrated at Julia



and Phillip Rose's place on 17th November. A small but enthusiastic number attended to see Julia and Phillip receive their Life Membership certificates

presented by life and original members Carol and Alan Rose. There were of course many of our carers there Wallabies, Eastern Greys and Swamp Wallabies. It was unfortunate that more of our members couldn't attend. We did have an enthusiastic new member who is doing a thesis on

continued on page 11



Contacts for Northern Tableland Wildlife Carers (NTWC)

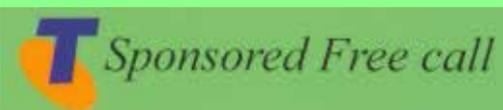
Chairman - Colin Wood 0438 013 500
Vice Chairman - Di Hansford 6775 5729
Secretary - Debbie MacLean 6775 0202
Minutes Secretary - Wendy Beresford 6775 3747
Treasurer - Julia Rose - 6775-3767
Training Officer - Julie-Anne Willis 6733 5384
Wombaroo - Kelly Stumbles 0427 073 505
Wombaroo - Diane Hansford 6775 5729
Publicity - Colin Wood - 0438 013 500
NWC Rep - Jackie Maisy 0407 040 003
Newsletter - Colin Wood 0438 013 500
Armidale - Julia Rose 6775-3767
Wendy Beresford 6775 3747
Tamworth - 6762 1232
Tenterfield - Carmel Cowin 6736 2228
Glen Innes ` Kelly Stumbles 6732 1838
Snake Co-ord - Colin Wood 0438 013 500
Write to NTWC PO Box 550Armidale 2350

Northern Tableland Wildlife Carers is a network of trained volunteers licensed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. We rescue, rehabilitate and release injured, sick, orphaned & unwanted native fauna. Any assistance please call the above numbers in your area.

Membership \$20 single and \$25 family year for authorised and support members All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

This Newsletter is designed by Colin Wood and printed by New England Credit Union.

Telstra Country Wide are also proud to be a sponsor of NTWC



CONTENTS

Page 1-NTWC Twenty Years and Still Going Strong

Page 3- CAT CONTROL IS ON THE DRAWING BOARD!

Page 4 - Devestating our Native Wildlife

Page 5 - Wombats in captivity in all of North America

Page 6 - Storm ravaged birdlife recovers with a little TLC 20th August 1996

Page 7 - Wildlife Rehabilitation & Relocation. Should we or Shouldn't we Intervene?

Page 9 - Wind Turbines and Bird Strike - A New Look

Page 11 - Our first Newsletter 1993

Page 12 - Call for new approach to koala conservation

Page 13 - Thanks Dean!

Page 14 - Introducing 'Kenti - Wom', a wombat rescued from Kentucky railway siding south of Uralla.

Page 15 - Money from Armidale Dumeresque Council (ADC)



Shirley and Harold protecting sugar glider habitat from Shire destruction.

Well done everyone - We are on our way!

COMING UP- MAY 29th 1993
Armidale City Public school Fete
Saturday 9-1pm

More of an information stall than fundraising - (although a small raffle is permitted). Lots of bodies in jars and posters etc. Contact Julia if you would like to help.

MEDIA WATCH: In a recent edition of the magazine, Simply Living, an article titled "A NEEDLE for the NEEDY" by M McPherson has some exciting news.

Acupuncture treatments have been successful on a wide variety of animals -domestic and native, proving to be valuable for spinal injuries with paralysis or bruising. The Australian Veterinarian Acupuncture Association (A.V.A.A.) has taken steps to formalize procedures so that animals can only be treated by trained veterinary surgeons.

Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers looks forwards to this form of treatment being available in our area.

CAT CONTROL IS ON THE DRAWING BOARD!

Congratulation R.S.P.C. A. for their article in March issue of "ANIMALS" calling for tougher cat controls. It is a comfort to know such sound ideas are being put forward as the Animal Welfare Branch of NSW Department of Agriculture consults local Councils and animal groups in its effort to streamline both cat and dog registrations. NSW legislation will not be similar to the Victorian Companion Animal Act, but will have incentives to de-sex and keep



under control cats as well as dogs.

CAT BITES - FROM JOHN KEEP - FAUNA COURSE

Birds which have been caught by cats and have received cat-bites require very prompt treatment which nearly always involves the use of broadspectrum antibiotics

because of the association between cat-bites of fulminating bacterial septicemias and/or toxæmias.

Ross A. Perry



Wendy Beresford and Julia talking to John Walmsely day after fund raising dinner at Maureens place.

Also with cat attacks, keep the bird warm and place in a quite area where any disturbances are minimal. Get bird to a Vet as soon as possible as the chances of survival can be increased the earlier the bird is treated by the Vet with antibiotics etc.

THE MEN OF SPRING VALLEY fought a constant battle against animal pests. There was a great variety of wildlife in the district last century - some harmless and others a constant nuisance to farmers. Wallabies, bandicoots,

THIS PARAGRAPH WAS RECENTLY SPOTTED IN A BOOK CALLED "THE MIGRANT SHEPHERD-OBER-ROSBACH TO TENTERFIELD - BY E.LLOYD SOMMERLAD: 1984

kangaroo Rats and possums abounded; native cats preyed on small animals; cockatoos, parrots, and flying foxes raided orchards. The Tenterfield Pastures Protection Board reported in the month of June 1984, that it had paid for the following scalps of noxious animals: 8,980 scrub wallabies, 11,634 rock wallabies, 2,223 kangaroo rats and bandicoots, 320 native dogs. The possums, particularly, were a menace;

**scalps of noxious animals:
8,980 scrub wallabies,
11,634 rock wallabies,
2,223 kangaroo rats and
bandicoots,**

they would eat everything, and some of the pioneers talked about shooting them until their guns got too hot to hold. Phil

Sommerlad was handy with a rifle and shot hundreds of possums. He would go out at night and silhouette them against the moon. Possum skins were bought by merchants for 30 or more shillings a dozen and Phil declared that it was the sale of skins which gave him his financial start." It makes me wonder what tallies there were in



this area?
The surviving remnant population of native animals certainly need all the help they can get.



Maureen , Audrey Kooseman and others at Pilliga post fire search and rescue.

Kalisto - Rebecca's new addition

WOMBATS IN CAPTIVITY IN ALL OF NORTH AMERICA

“Originally, they were orphans of

they're siblings. The pair has been raised by people since they were pulled from the pouches of separate mothers. ‘If they get too brotherly-sisterly, we'll separate them for a while,” Pearson said.



Mr Roger Price, Australian Consul-General handed Millie the wombat to the Canadian Consul-General, Gitane De Silva, with the help of staff from Chicago's Brookfield Zoo.

Wombats are notoriously hard to breed in captivity. Zookeepers in Australia have tried various

the wild from South Australia
Their moms got hit by cars, so you pull the joeys out of the pouch and hand-raise them,” said Dan Pearson, the acting wildlife care supervisor at the Toronto Zoo.

methods, including introducing additional males as competition.
Millie and Arthur are both just 18 months old and will have as much time before they're ready to play in the burrows tucked past the kanga

The sheltered wombats have an other hurdle: for all they know,

Continued on Page 8

Storm ravaged birdlife recovers with a little TLC 20th August 1996

By PETER BARRETT

AMAZINGLY, Armidale escaped last week's devastating hail storm without personal injury: not so our birdlife.

The storm left a trail of dead and injured birds across the city and surrounds.

Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers immediately set up a 'first aid station' through coordinators, Maureen Davies and Julia Rose.

Over the past week they have taken in almost 50 birds, not to mention a duck and a few possums.

Unfortunately, about half were so badly injured that they had to be put down.

A topknot pigeon survived after its parents were killed when the nest was destroyed.

Some birds were brought in, some passed on by local vets and some the carers collected.

"Right now I've got a duck, a black-faced cuckoo shrike, a magpie, a galah, two pigeons and 10 parrots," Maureen said on Friday, when birds were still being brought in five days after the storm.

"They've got really nasty injuries

- broken wings, broken legs. Often you get clean breaks, but others are smashed.

"The vets pinned some wings and legs, but only the clean breaks, and one bird had a leg amputated," she said.

Maureen said all were wild birds which had obviously been hit by hail, and people had seen them in their yards, out on the road or in trees.

"A lot of them were galahs and parrots which didn't seem to have enough sense to get under cover." There was a big flock of galahs up in Glen Innes Rd just flying around when the hail hit and then suddenly it was just raining birds."

The carers have warned house holders to be on the lookout for injured and bruised birds in trees and shrubs unable to fly, because these are easy prey for cats.

While Maureen and Julia act as coordinators initially, the birds are then 'farmed out' to other NTWC members.

People finding injured birds can contact Maureen (71 3352) or Julia (75 3767) (old numbers).

Wildlife Rehabilitation & Relocation. Should we or Shouldn't we Intervene?

The Veterinarian's Role in Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release

Extracts from a paper presented by Larry Vogelnesl,
Senior Veterinarian, Taronga Zoo
from October 1996

The rescue, treatment, rehabilitation and release of wildlife is controversial and often involves emotional philosophical issues which frequently overshadow practical biological issues.

Veterinarians are frequently caught up in heated debate over these issues. Decisions to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife must be based on sound conservation and biological principals yet take into account the welfare of the individuals being rescued and rehabilitated. Most frequently initial rescue and treatment is based on welfare. However, the other issues must quickly be considered to ensure the ongoing welfare of the individual (during rehabilitation and after release), protect the populations and ecosystems and to avoid disappointment after emotional attachment by carers. It is in these decisions that veterinarians play a crucial role.

Veterinarians are now fortunate that there is a network of

experienced wildlife carers who can assist with much of the care, rehabilitation, release and post-release monitoring of wildlife. This reservoir of knowledge and experience must not be ignored when making decisions.

The primary roles of the veterinarian in wildlife rehabilitation are:- provision of emergency treatment, diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury, assess prognosis and suitability for release, advise on husbandry and nutrition during rehabilitation, assess health status prior to release, have knowledge of and provide advice on legislation relating to wildlife rehabilitation and involvement in policy and protocol development relating to the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife.

There is now an increased awareness and interest in wildlife medicine in the veterinary community and a network of experienced wildlife veterinarians is developing.

Veterinary undergraduate curricula in Australia now include subjects relating to wildlife biology, ecology, husbandry, medicine, surgery, restraint and rehabilitation. Post-graduate training in wildlife medicine is also available in Australia.

When making an assessment, veterinarians must keep in mind that the release of a native animal back into the wild must always be in the best interest of the animal, the population and the ecosystem. Prior to release all animals must undergo a thorough clinical examination and health assessment as well as an assessment by an experienced rehabilitator. The majority of wildlife releases are undertaken with complete lack of awareness or little regard for disease risks.

The animal may be exposed to diseases to which it has not developed immunity secondly many species of wild animals carry infectious agents of which we have little knowledge or are not even aware of. For these reasons appropriate measures must be taken to reduce risk of disease. These include quarantine, clinical assessment, laboratory tests, oilier disease "screening" and prophylactic procedures and treatments. An understanding of disease processes and the measures required to prevent

their transmission and spread is essential for all veterinarians

From page 5

roo exhibit, at the back of the Australasia Pavilion.

Millie and Arthur are about half their adult weight, just over 15 kilograms. Like other marsupials, female wombats have pouches in which they rear their babies, turned upside-down in this case to make it easier to burrow tunnels to escape the high heat of their homeland.

Nearly all wombats in captivity came this way as orphans, typically found clinging to a teat in the pouch of a mother killed on the road.

There are only nine wombats in captivity in North America Toronto now has three, while the others are sprinkled across the United States. Millie and Arthur came by way of Chicago's Brookfield Zoo, which has three of its own.

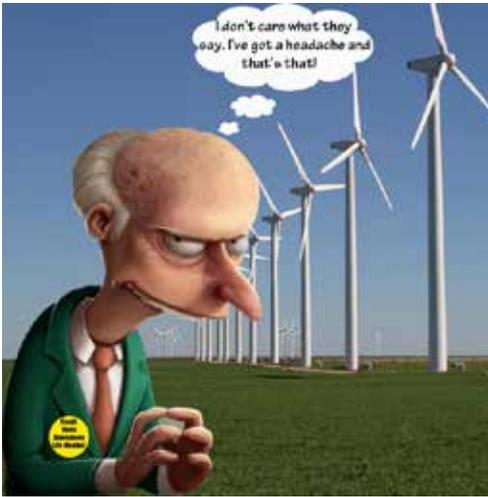
William Rapley, the zoo's executive director of conservation, education and wildlife, said the addition of the two younger, more active wombats gives a better picture of the array of animals in its Australasia Pavilion. "They're very social animals. They have up to 30 in a group," Rapley said.

The southern hairy-nosed wombat isn't at risk in the wild, but the northern hairy-nosed wombat is "one of the most critically endangered species on the planet," said Pearson, "so any experience breeding these guys will certainly help the northern (wombat)."

WIND TURBINES AND BIRD STRIKE - A NEW LOOK

Whenever a new wind turbine project is announced, it's common for critics to pipe up and complain about the risk of bird kills.

That strategy may fall a little



flat with a planning application being submitted in Bedfordshire, however. The installation is being spearheaded by [the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds \(RSPB\)](#), Britain's largest bird conservation group. Here's Paul Forecast, the director of the RSPB, explaining more about [the RSPB wind turbine project](#) from a joint press release issued with wind energy developer [Ecotricity](#):

A wind turbine at our UK headquarters is the single biggest step we can take to reduce our carbon emissions, and will make

a significant contribution to the RSPB's carbon reduction targets. We can already see the impact that climate change is having on our countryside with saltmarsh and mudflats declining at a rate of 100 hectares per year in England. It is our responsibility to protect the rest of our environment for future generations.

Both Ecotricity and the RSPB say they have undertaken thorough environmental assessments of the site, and they are confident that there will not be a significant impact on either local wildlife or the surrounding community. In fact, the RSPB, together with the British Trust for Ornithology, has previously headed up some of the largest studies into the impact that wind farms have on bird species, finding that construction of these installations often has a larger impact than their ongoing operation.

Impacts varied between species, with red grouse numbers recovering after construction, curlews declining and not recovering, and skylarks increasing. Their

findings are published in the [Journal of Applied Ecology](#). This is the latest in a long line of studies on wind farms' interactions with birds, but differs from most in its scale. Ten species of birds were included, and 18 wind farms in upland areas of the UK were studied — most were monitored before construction began, during construction, and again afterwards. That's not to say there aren't potential issues with wind turbines, most notably where they are cited near prime raptor habitat. The RSPB has previously [voiced concerns about turbine plans which posed a particular threat to rare birds](#), and remains adamant that careful assessments are necessary for all turbine installations. However, the charity insists that cutting carbon emissions has to be an urgent priority for any organization concerned about the survival of wildlife. Of course, even the vocal support of the RSPB is unlikely to silence the anti-wind farm and climate skeptic lobbies. In fact a recent article in Britain's Daily Mail newspaper, a publication well known for publishing climate skeptic

voices, argued that [the RSPB makes millions from selling green energy](#) to its supporters. According to Paul Forecast, however, to argue whether or not to develop clean energy is a dangerous distraction. The real argument ought to be how and where we develop clean energy. The turbine planned for the RSPB headquarters, says Forecast, ought to be seen as an example for others to follow: "We hope that by installing a wind turbine at our UK headquarters, we will demonstrate to others that, with a thorough environmental assessment, the correct planning and location, renewable energy and a healthy, thriving environment can go hand in hand." And here's Ruth Davis, head of climate change policy at the RSPB, making the case for low carbon energy as a central strategy for conservationists and anyone else interested in preserving the diversity of species we share this planet with.

Micro-bats, she will be a valued member as she also wants to help with rescue. Good luck to four of our new

from pag 1



members who did doing a snake handling course on the last weekend of November, they will be valued members this coming summer.

Come along to our next meeting 15th December, where we will be welcoming a few NEW MEMBERS



birdtraining course , Echidna Gully.

FUND RAISING REPORT - APRIL 1993:

What an incredibly healthy start! -Foundation members please take a bow. 5 Market day stalls were held at different venues from Glen Innes to Uralla - \$903.30 has so far been raised.

The main attraction (apart from strange bodies in jars) has been the raffle - a beautiful day/night sapphire ring

valued at over \$250.00. The stone - found and donated by Alan and Carol Rose was attractively set and has been admired and tried on by so many hopeful winners. What a pity there can only be one. Steve Elkin, NPWS - Armidale drew the winning ticket on the 28th April and the winner was: Mrs E. Mitchell, 12 Arundle Drive. Armidale - Congratulations.

The market day mornings have also been a valuable public relations exercise with lots of positive public support for our decision to be a new independent group and also for the need to save what remnant wildlife population we have in New England. Funds have allowed for the purchase of a basic stock of Wombaroo

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Call for new approach to koala conservation

3 October 2013

Land management practices must change to protect vulnerable koala populations, according to new University of Sydney research published today in the international biodiversity and ecology journal, *Ecography*.



In the first study of its kind a research team - led by Mathew Crowther of the School of Biological Sciences - found koalas are choosing trees different to those in which they feed in an attempt to survive higher daytime temperatures and extreme events such as droughts and heatwaves. "Koalas need a combination of both the right kind of shelter trees and food trees to survive," Dr Crowther said. "Ensuring a habitat has a good supply of feed trees and protecting koalas from predators is not enough to ensure their survival. "Our research confirmed koalas

shelter during the day in different types of trees to the eucalypts they feed on at night.

"Shelter trees can be significantly cooler than feed trees. "We found the hotter it is during the day the more koalas will tend to seek out bigger trees with denser foliage to try to escape those temperatures. "The koalas studied also showed a preference for trees in lower lying areas such as gullies which are often cooler than trees on open plains or hilltops.

"Our research was the first in which shelter trees were considered equally with feed trees when examining the viability of a koala habitat.

"The lack of understanding of the importance of shelter trees for koalas is particularly concerning given the increasing frequency of extreme weather events.

"Exposure to prolonged high temperatures can result in heat stress, dehydration and eventually death. "One quarter of the koalas we studied perished in a heatwave in 2009 and Australia has just experienced the hottest year since climate records began," he said.

Forty koalas were tracked using GPS, global positioning system, over three years on Liverpool Plains farmland around Gunnedah in north-western New South Wales.

Landholders in the region support-



ed the efforts of the research team, especially though the community-driven Liverpool Plains Land Management Inc.

“Our research calls for a rethink of koala management and conservation,” Dr Crowther said.

“The implication is that long-standing land management practices of retaining and planting feed trees for koalas needs to be expanded to include shelter trees within the home range of each koala. “Unlike their very narrow choice of feed trees, koalas chose a relatively wide variety of trees for shelter, including species such as Belah and Kurrajong.

“An urgent emphasis needs to be placed on retaining taller, mature trees such as remnant paddock trees, and the planting of both food and shelter trees, especially in more protected gullies to try to offset the impact of high temperatures,” he said.

Dr Crowther said his team’s research also highlights the need for

further investigation into the koala’s diet and how other tree-dwelling species are affected by sustained changes to climate.

The paper Climate-mediated habitat selection in an aboreal folivore was published online in *Ecography* 36: 001-008, 2013 by the Nordic Society Oikos. Copies are available on request.

Follow University of Sydney Media on Twitter

Contact: Dr Mathew Crowther, 9351 7661, 0401 858 211 mathew.crowther@sydney.edu.au

Media enquiries: Jenny Eather, 0478 313 173 jenny.eather@sydney.edu.au

Thanks Dean!

As part of our licensing requirements from National Parks the group is required to provide details of all calls received and all animals in care over the previous 12 months. Last year National Parks requested that all groups provide more information on the calls and animals. They provided us with a very basic spreadsheet which turned out to be very unwieldy and time consuming to use. So the group turned to member Dean Davidson who is an IT and database expert. After many consultations regarding National Parks and the group’s requirements,

COME ALONG TO NEXT
MEETING
15TH DECEMBER
TREE GROUP MANN ST
ARMIDALE 1.30

Introducing 'Kenti – Wom', a wombat rescued from Kentucky railway siding south of Uralla.

When Colin and I arrived late one evening we were met with an old wombat with what looked like a bad case of mange and in poor



condition. Euthanasia seemed the only and kindest option.

Finding someone to do that just didn't happen and I spent the night thinking 'this wombat was eating really well, it may not be the right decision'. So next morning I drove back and brought her into care.

Not being sure about the mange status I had devised an isolation pen in our old sheep yards. Our first aim was to diagnose a definite infectious status so Craig from North Hill vets visited his first wombat and took some scrapings. He also commenced her on antibiotic injections. I began treatment with ivermectin and

an external treatment of her badly mangled ears and skin scabs. She had a dreadful earache and her eye was closed that side so we treated her pain and skin. Her appetite remained good right from day one, carrots being a favourite and as much grass as we could offer. This old girl had a real will to live. She had lost one of her front 'forever' bottom teeth and her weight was low. We wondered if she been attacked by dogs or dingoes? Thankfully right from her first day she seemed very appreciative of our efforts and content in our company.

Then came some good news, the test results came back negative so there was no mange. Such a big relief as we have work dogs which would be at risk. A daily routine



began with treatments and comfort checks, then food gathering and special treats. When I discovered I could purchase a bag of nuts similar to the old type of wombat nuts for zoos , she began to turn a corner. However just like the hind gut fermenter Koalas she required gut flora replacement after the antibiotics. It is now months into her rehabilitation and she is quite presentable again. Interestingly she has never attempted to dig her way out of the enclosure , obviously 'meals in buckets' are adequate and so is the accomadation.

It is hard to see her reaching a release weight until this drought breaks and then the problem will be where as Kentucky railway station is really not an option. We hope she does make it back to wombat land. By the way did you know Wombat Day was on the 22nd October? We might have a delayed day on the 17th so bring a carrot for Wom as well.



Wendy Beresford and Julia Rose talking to John Walmsely

Please check out the
“No cows in National Parks”
Facebook page.

A threat to our national Parks by
Adam Marshal National Party

Money from Armidale Dumeresque Council (ADC)



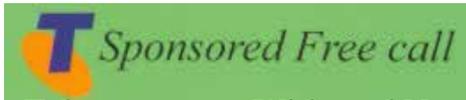
Wildlife Rescue crews after fire



Recently we applied for a grant from ADC for some Kritterscopes to enable our snake relocaters to safely rescue snakes in and around houses, holes and the like. It is a small TV camera on a long flexible arm with two LED's and a small hand-held TV screen. We received \$350 from ADC which we purchased three of these Kritterscopes and spare batteries. This will enable our carers to safely (both to themselves and the snake) rescue snakes.

Our next meeting will be 15th December at approx 1.30 at Tree Group Mann St Armidale.

Please come along and support your group. New members especially welcome. Our Raffle picture on the right hand side of this page tickets \$1. The raffle to be drawn at this meeting
Please buy/sell big to support your group



Telstra country Wide and New England Mutual are proud to be sponsors of NT Wildlife Carers...Local people working together.

Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
PO Box 550 Armidale 2350
www.ntwc.org.au

