



# Rescue Rehabilitate Release



**Newsletter of The Northern Tablelands  
Wildlife Carers Issue No 87 November 2010  
Phone - 1800-008290 [www.ntwc.org.au](http://www.ntwc.org.au)**

## Koala Rescue Assist by University students

By Tony Karasulas

In the last few weeks there have been a few koala rescues, and I have spent more time up trees than I would wish. I even

ended up in the papers twice for koala rescues!

Most were not very public, though. Last Wednesday I got a call from Julia at around 10pm about a koala with joey who had been hit by a car. Not surprisingly finding exactly the right tree in the dark took lots of time and torchlight. But suddenly, there was a large koala-shaped

bump at the foot of a tree. I approached quietly, as I wanted to catch her before she could climb out of reach. Her joey was on her back, and I tried to get a blanket over them both. Although injured she did try hard to evade the cooking pot she thought I had planned for her, and it was with lots of ring-a-ring-a-rosey around the tree trunk and hissing and

spitting (her too) and finally a one-leg tug of war before I bagged mum. Bub had meanwhile de-bussed and run up the tree. Damn!



Now this tree was right in front of St. Alberts College at UNE, and with all the ruckus we were making a voice boomed out of the dark asking what the heck was going on. Within minutes I had 7 helpful if slightly inebriated uni students helping me. "It's my 21st" a female voice said. "Happy birthday", I said, "here, hold this pouch." A fellow called 'Mars' said

he was great at climbing and was up that trunk like a professional monkey. As the joey was on thin outer branches the only way we were going to get the little dude

down was to shake him loose. Someone brought a sheet out and we got a first year student on each corner, and this was held semi-taught under the joey's position. Then 'Mars' started shaking the branch. Slowly the little guy slipped down and finally off the branch and into the sheet, all neat

and tidy. I can't thank these cheerful students enough, as without their help the Joey would not have been rescued easily. They sure did seem to enjoy helping the baby koala out!

Unfortunately during the night mum, who was a big healthy lady, succumbed to the internal injuries

*Continued on page 3*

## Contacts for Northern Tableland Wildlife Carers (NTWC)

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- Write to NTWC PO Box 550 Armidale 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.

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

## Contents

- Page 1- Koala Rescue Assist by University students
- Page 3 - Efforts To Save World's Rarest Marsupial are Paying Off
- Page 5 -The Grey Headed Flying-fox
- Page 7 - Report on NSW Wildlife Council (NWC)
- Page 8 - Community Partnership Account with New England Mutual
- Page 9 - Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference Inc
- Page 10- Macropod Training Day – Glen Innes
- Page 11 - Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre
- Page 12 - The Goddess Fierce Echidna
- Page 13 -The Echidna
- Page 13 - Frog Facts
- Page 13 - Bountiful Butterflies
- Page 14 - Your Giant Leap for Wildlife
- Page 15 - "Carwell's" Open Garden
- Page 16 - Meeting dates
- Page 16 - Raffle

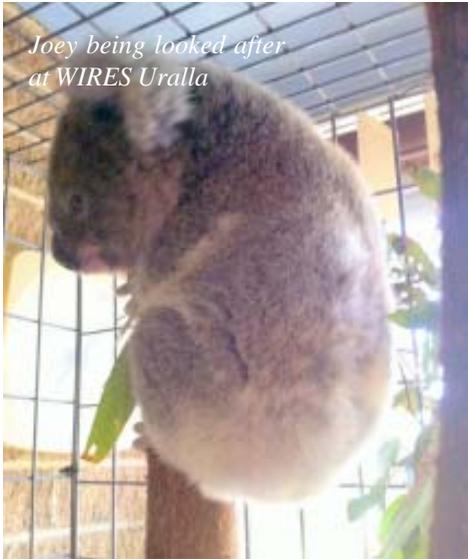
 *Sponsored Free call*



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*Continued from page 1*

she had sustained in the accident. The little joey chap was fortunately in top nick and undamaged, and is in foster care now with Denise of "WIRES" Uralla. And what a little charmer he is too! Such a privilege to get to meet the little man, and such a sadness to lose his beautiful mum.



*Joey being looked after at WIRES Uralla*



**Potaroo looked after by Carmel Cowan**

## **Efforts To Save World's Rarest Marsupial are Paying Off**

Two tiny populations of the world's rarest marsupial - the Gilbert's potaroo - are thriving, with conservation efforts to save the critically endangered animal paying off. Gilbert's potaroos are small rat kangaroos, which bear some

resemblance to bandicoots. They have a densely furred body, and long hind feet with long, curved claws on the front feet that they use to dig for food. Since the discovery of the only known wild population, which was about 40-strong, at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve near Albany in 1995, the Gilbert's potaroo has been the subject of a recovery.

Between 2005 and 2007, the Department of Environment and Conservation translocated ten potaroos from the original colony at Two Peoples Bay to predator-free Bald Island, as insurance against the loss of the tiny mainland population.

Earlier this year, nine potaroos were released into a specially built 380ha enclosure in Waychinicup National Park, 25km east of Albany, with six of the animals coming from Bald Island and three from Two Peoples Bay.

Dr Tony Friend, the principal research scientist at Western Australia's Department of Environment and Conservation, said the latest monitoring trip to Bald Island had revealed a thriving population of potaroos.

'During the two-week trip, we captured 49 adult or young independent potaroos, nine of which were original founder animals, which is a big increase over the previous record in November last year, when 29 independent potaroos were captured.'

Dr Friend said. 'The condition of the animals was good and 12 of the 19 females captured were

**Continued on page 5**

**Do you utilise Our Website as much as you could? [www.ntwc.org.au](http://www.ntwc.org.au)**

**Main advantages of using the website**

**You can print out your**

- **Membership form**
- **Foster Care report**
- **Milk request form**
- **Animal transfer form**
- **Animal report form**
- **You can have access to most carer organisation throughout Australia**
- **Have access to lots of useful links for education and help for native animals**
- **Read the latest and older issues of you newsletter**
- **See lots of photos of animals in care and those that have been released**
- **Lots of stuff to help you care for our native animals**
- **Check out the snakes in our area and see which are non; partly or very venomous**
- **Leave a message for our committee**

**In future, to save on postage and paper we will be sending out emails with the website address of the latest newsletter to all who have internet access.**

**Please register you email address with Colin at [turton37@bigpond.com](mailto:turton37@bigpond.com)**

**Native animal art prints are available from Gerhard Kortner, for \$20 , phone 6771 2436.”**



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## The Grey Headed Flying-fox

Listed as VULNERABLE under the NSW Threatened Species Act since 4 th May 2001

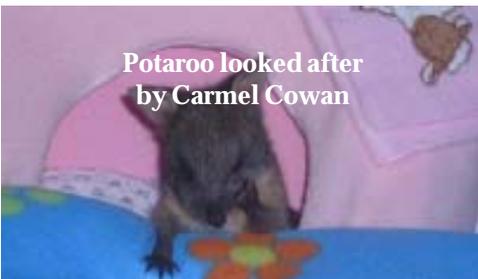
When Europeans came to Australia they brought with them the idea that any sort of bat was evil. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries people killed Flying-foxes in their thousands as well as a lot of other native animals such as the Wedge Tailed Eagle, Kites, Falcons, Possums, Koalas, Dingoes and many more.

Because Flying-foxes are seen in large numbers some find it hard to believe they they are vulnerable but the fact remains that their numbers



### Continued from page 3

carrying pouch young, while three others were suckling young out of the pouch. 'Dr Friend said a survey in mid-May revealed eight of the nine animals introduced into the predator-proof fenced enclosure at Waychinicup National Park had survived.



"Unfortunately, we lost one young male, which had been rescued at Two Peoples Bay and hand-reared after becoming separated from his mother, as he apparently had trouble finding food," he said.

One of the recaptured Bald Island females at Waychinicup had a young animal in its pouch, which would have been conceived in the fenced enclosure, and this is an extremely positive sign that the animals are adapting well to their new environment.

Over the next few weeks we will be trapping extensively inside the enclosure to locate the potaroos and record the vegetation types they have settled in, to help us gain a better idea of the range of habitat types that Gilbert's potaroos can live in and help us select future release areas on the mainland.'



are decreasing .

We have several species of Flying-fox in Australia and it is impossible to tell the difference between Greys and Blacks when they fly out at night. When a colony is occupied in this area then another is empty. Flying-foxes travel large

distances in search of native flowering and native fruit. Like all native animals and birds they are opportunistic eaters and will also eat orchard and backyard fruit.

Interestingly, since Wildlife Carers and Researchers became interested in raising and caring for these mammals we have learnt that feeding Flying-foxes isn't as easy as first thought. Flying-foxes can not survive on commercial fruit only, not enough protein, and that is without the need to fly long distances as they are in care. Flying-foxes main food is nectar and pollen that is derived from eucalypts, banksias and melaleucas. These native species do not flower every year and in response to this sometimes the Flying-fox has to travel great distances. Satellite telemetry has shown that individuals can fly up to 800kms within weeks. If the flowering is good then it is usual for Flying-foxes to travel approx 20 -30 kms a night. Rain at night also has a devastating effect washing out the nectar and pollen that these plants produce at night.

Flying-fox birthing season is just about here and we may be lucky enough to have some fly our way. The females have only one young each year and fly for the first 5 or 6 weeks with their young. Bats, both Insectivorous and Flying-fox, do not have a pouch but fly with their young hanging onto their nipple with their mouth and her fur with their feet. Bats are the only flying mammals in the world although there are other species that glide. Flying-fox have a large part to play in pollinating our forests and the dispersal of seed. Without them we would not have the diversity that we now enjoy in our forests and National Parks.

For the next few months please look out for Flying-foxes in trouble. If you see one electrocuted

on power lines check to see if a bub is on her. More than 90% of young survive on an electrocuted



*photo by Vivien Jones*

mother. These young can be successfully raised and released. A Flying-fox alone in a bush/tree/fence is also in trouble and your Wildlife Care group needs to be called.

It would be a tragedy for Flying-foxes to become extinct as the Passenger Pigeons did in North America. Once it was thought to be the most prolific bird on the planet. In 1810 ornithologists estimated that there were over 2 billion birds in a single flock, one of many. Their diet consisted of nuts, seeds and berries. Due to land clearing, culling, forest fires and ignorance the last of these birds was shot in 1900 and the last living captive bird died in 1914.

Lets hope that Flying-foxes have a chance to survive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## Report on NSW Wildlife Council (NWC)

by Brian Chetwynd

The NWC (NSW Wildlife Council) was initiated 5 years ago and is now firmly established as the peak body for all wildlife carers in the State. It represents some 4,500 carers from more than 28 wild care groups. NSW is the only state with a peak body that represents carers. NWC has an excellent relationship with the Dept of the Environment (National Parks), who have recently confirmed a 3 year guaranteed funding program.

Probably, the major early achievement of NWC, was the underwriting of members insurance and this relieved the individual wild care groups of a very onerous and expensive aspect of their operation. This was due in no small part to NTWC member Alan Rose, who with his wife Carol were tireless workers. Alan was the NTWC representative for 3 years. He was succeeded by John Donnelly, who gained a reputation on NWC as an excellent contributor and hard worker. The current representative is Brian Chetwynd, who was elected Secretary of the NWC at the AGM in August 2010.

At the last meeting of the NWC, several guest speakers were invited. Most notable, was Ms Sally Barnes, Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Group. Ms Barnes addressed the Council on several wide-ranging issues of policy and current programs. A number of questions were put to Ms Barnes about the new Fauna Policy and her forthright answers and genuine concern was greatly appreciated by Council members. There was little doubt that Ms Barnes and NWC have a very good relationship.

Mr. Kevin Roberts, Senior Environmental

Specialist from the RTA also addressed the Council on biodiversity guidelines and the RTA's effort in this direction. Again, NWC members were extremely impressed with the efforts and concerns placed on the protection of wildlife. This was particularly the case regarding RTA projects of underpasses and overpasses. Again, the co-operation of the RTA is greatly appreciated by NWC and doubtless this excellent relationship will continue.

Amongst the current concerns of NWC is the continued slaughter of kangaroos for commercial gain and the attempted relocation of the grey-headed flying fox. NWC is making the appropriate representations to those concerned and is actively participating where necessary. The next meeting of the NWC is in November and anyone wishing to have a matter raised, or get further information about any issue, may contact Brian Chetwynd on 6772-5855.

**NTWC has its own  
FaceBook page.  
Go to  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
and 'search' Northern  
Tablelands Wildlife  
Carers and ask for a  
"friend request".  
I hope it will become  
a place where  
members can share  
ideas and concerns.**

# Community Partnership Account with New England Mutual



Community Groups can encourage Community Partnership Accounts to be opened by letting supporters know about it through their own newsletters, meetings and functions. Community Groups can also distribute these brochures to their supporters. When a whole community gets behind their favourite charity, sporting club or community organisation, small amounts saved by individuals can become significant to their fundraising goals.

How can you support your favourite community group?

The Community Mutual Group offers a Community Partnership Account (CPA) which assists community-based organisations with their fundraising activities. The CPA is a full access savings account that offers a competitive interest rate and a guarantee that we will reward the account holder's nominated community group with an annual bonus payment. The Account holder WINS with a competitive transaction account, the community group WINS with financial support and we WIN as we are able to direct more funds back into the communities in which we operate!

How does it work?

Interested Community Groups need to register with The Community Mutual Group to become a Recipient Organisation. We will then place the organisation's name on our list of recipient organisations and individual members can elect to support their favourite groups by opening a Community Partnership Account.

On 30 June each year we calculate the average annual balance of accounts held by supporters of each recipient organisation. This amount is then used by us to make a 1% bonus payment to the chosen Community Organisation.

What can community groups do?

You can support your chosen community organisation without it costing you anything. As long as you have money in your account, your chosen organisation will receive an annual bonus from us. Thanks to supporters choosing their favourite community organisation, the recipient can continue to enjoy this bonus payment each year.

**NTWC received  
\$186 from this  
initiative.  
Register to help  
us to raise more  
money**

The more supporters an organisation obtains the more they will receive in their annual bonus payment—encourage your relatives and friends to become supporters today.

How can I access funds in the CPA?

The Community Partnership Account is an everyday transaction account with a variety of access methods to suit you! Access your funds at call through a cheque book, EFTPOS, ATM, Web Access (Internet Banking), Swift Access (telephone banking), VISA Debit card and BPAY®.

Support Northern Tablelands Wildlife carers.

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# Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference Inc

I am pleased to announce the formal creation of the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference Inc (AWRC Inc).

We have chosen to use the word *Australian* in our name as in this internet-enabled world, the word *National* could apply to any country. However, conferences may well continue to be called *National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference*; this will be at the discretion of future conference organising committees.

Conferences will be held every two years and we are delighted to advise that the 2012 conference will be held in Townsville.

Over past five years an informal group of past Conference organisers has been working together, mentoring and facilitating future and potential conference organisers to ensure the continuation of the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conferences.

This group has been responsible for the creation of a "rolling loan", now at \$12,500, which is made available to each new Conference organising committee as seed funding.

Whilst we have relied on trust until this point, the contributors were concerned that this money, which was not ours, be safeguarded and that the management of this money be formalised.

The purpose of AWRC is to administer the "rolling loan" and to facilitate future Wildlife Rehabilitation Conferences. To that end we will also be compiling documentation and offering guidance and

support to future conference organisers.

The AWRC is independent of any other wildlife associations, and its funds will be used solely to support and encourage national wildlife rehabilitation conferences. These conferences have always been well organised, informative and enjoyable and it is our aim to ensure that they continue to improve and remain relevant and useful into the future.



**We are centralising management of the Conference website which will overcome some of the hand-over problems which Conference organising committees have previously encountered. Currently the new website - [www.awrc.org.au](http://www.awrc.org.au) - which will be the repository for all NWRC Papers in a searchable format redirects visitors to the existing Conference website. Searches for National Wildlife Rehabilitation**

**Conference (NWRC) are now being redirected to the new website. Our Constitution will, in due course, be available on the new website.**

Committee members currently consist of members from each of the States which have contributed financially, together with representatives from previous committees who have continued their involvement, and members of future conference organising committees. Most of our committee members have provided advice and assistance to more than one conference in the past. If required in the future, the Committee may be expanded in line with AWRC's needs.

# Macropod Training Day - Glen Innes

Kelly Stumbles – Glen Innes Co-ordinator,  
NTWC

A macropod training day was held in Glen Innes on the 16th October at the NPWS building. We got off to a late start due to the windy and rainy weather the night before. A number of people couldn't make

to town by my partner Ian. Her car had to stay on the other side of the tree; I drove her back to her car that afternoon.

Besides Julie who conducted the course and myself (Kelly) who ran it, we had eleven people attend the course. Four were from Tenterfield, two from Armidale and five from Glen Innes. Out of those only three weren't members but two of those filled out membership forms and paid their fees on the day.

Once we got started the day flew by with everyone appearing to enjoy the course and gain something from it. I think everyone brushed up on their skills and learnt new things to care for macropods. So hopefully we have some new members that are a bit more on track with what they're meant to do.

Keeping your training up to date is an important thing when you're a wildlife carer; it's in the animals' best interest for everyone to do so. Also if you have a problem never hesitate to call an experienced carer for help, it could save the animals life.

Well happy caring everyone and I hope you enjoyed the course and will see you at the next one.



Glen Innes Training day

it due to this and Julie and Gary the presenters had a bummer of a time getting to town.

As it was only Julie made it in the end as when they got to the bridge near their place it was just about to go under so she had to rush Gary back to leave him at home with the roos in pre-release in case they couldn't get back home. So off she set again for town only to be held up by various trees across the road, some of which she got around but in the end she came across one that was too big. After a number of phone calls she was brought



A Pair of Tawneys with Julia

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# Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre

Glenn Dewhurst Manager Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre (BCRC)  
Glen is the Manager Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre (BCRC)

blackcockatoorescue.com

The Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre (BCRC) was established in 1988 by Yvonne and Fred Varris, Registered CALM Wildlife Rehabilitator's.



Everything we do with the birds is approved by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and are closely monitored by the Senior Wildlife Officers from DEC, and work with the Perth Zoo Veterinary Unit. We are Registered Wildlife Rehabilitators (DEC).

## Our Goals

- To successfully rehabilitate injured black cockatoos.
- To release rehabilitated cockatoo's back into their own family flocks in the wild.
- To provide education and awareness to the public and individuals on black cockatoos: distribution, habitat, food, conservation status,
- To provide education and awareness to the public and individuals on the functions of the BCRC

## Our Functions

We (the BCRC) recover (pick up) injured Black Cockatoos from anywhere in WA and transport

them to Perth Zoo for specialist medical care. It is essential to the bird's survival that it receives this care within 24 hours. We travel on average 2500km a month for the care, rehabilitation and release of the Black Cockatoos.

After initial treatment a, the bird is released back to the BCRC facility for further treatment and Cockatoo release in being able to demonstrate often that a family flock will accept their own back into the group. We have studied and identified on what to look for in particular the interaction between the birds. We are the only ones who know how to do this.

If we are unable to find their flock then we will keep them to build and form a flock to enable soft release of a group into the wild.

The birds that are unable to be released, (ie (ie "derelicts") and who are suitable will form a core group of educational Black Cockatoos that can be used by DEC approved individuals to take and use in their displays.

We are also working on public awareness and education on the status of black cockatoos, and how to obtain first aid for injured cockatoos.

Please refer to our web site for information sheets for descriptions, conservation status, distribution, diet and threats. Kindly donated by the Peth Zoo.

## BCRC current funding

Until very recently the BCRC was self-funded by my family, the two original members of the BCRC and myself. I currently spend approximately \$700 to \$1000 a month out of my and my family's wages to make up the day to day short fall of supplies. By no way see this as a complaint, as this is what we have chosen to do for the plight of the Black Cockatoos.

## BCRC Current staffing

We are a very small group of dedicated people (5 individuals) doing a mammoth job; we prefer to keep it that way until we can find the appropriate



Glenn Dewhurst Manager Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre (BCRC)

people to help us in the facility. Due to time constraints I do not have the time to train people to handle the birds, or to go through the checks to see if they can be trusted to work with them.

These birds are worth a lot of money in the illegal bird trade so we need to be mindful of volunteer trustworthiness and public knowledge of the facilities location.

## BCRC current partnerships

We have recently established other strong partnerships with the following companies, groups and individuals.

## Organisation assistance received

Perth Zoo Provide initial veterinary care for injured/ill birds Main Roads Western Australia Provision of permits to cut native food for the Black Cockatoos.

City of Armadale ~ Provision of permits to cut native food for the Black Cockatoos

"Men in Sheds", Armadale Home Help ~ Currently assisting in making feed trays.

NLG Earth Moving ~ Provided landfill to build pads for the future flight aviaries.

Zara Kivell, *Land for Wildlife* Officer, Species and Communities Branch, DEC, Perth Hills District Provision of 21 cockatoo nest boxes. liaison with DEC, Perth Hills District, *Men in Sheds*, City of Armadale, Serpentine-Jarrahdale Landcare, Armadale-Gosnells Landcare, provided referral information and support.

World Watch Assisting in the formation of a web site

## The Goddess Fierce Echidna



"The goddess fierce Echidna who is half a nymph with glancing eyes and fair cheeks, and half again a huge snake, great and awful, with speckled skin, eating raw flesh beneath the secret parts of the holy earth. And there she has a cave deep down under a hollow rock far from the deathless

gods and mortal men. There, then, did the gods appoint her a glorious house to dwell in: and she keeps guard in Arima beneath the earth, grim Echidna, a nymph who dies not nor grows old all her days." (Theogony, 295-305)

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## The Echidna

The Echidna (or affectionately known as the Spiny Anteater) is a primitive mammal. It lives in both Australia and New Guinea.

It is a solitary animal that burrows. When it is



attacked, the echidna will burrow into the ground or curl itself into a ball using its spines as a method of defence against the predator. The echidna's spines cover the top of its body. Echidna's have long sharp claws on their feet, and are approximately 35-50 cms long with a 10cm long tail. Their nose is very sensitive, they use this to find food, then they use their long sticky tongue to catch ants, worms and other such insects. Echidna's weigh on average between 2 to 7 kilograms.

Female echidna's lay a single egg in their pouch. After ten days, the egg hatches and a puggle (baby echidna) is born. They are born blind and hairless, and consume milk from a gland within the pouch. After an average of four weeks, the puggle develops sharp spines, and must leave the pouch.

## Frog Facts

Frogs belong to a class of animals called amphibians. Amphibians include frogs, toads, newts, salamanders and caecilians. Frogs are



Australia's only native amphibian Frogs play an important role in the food web maintaining the delicate balance of nature. There are estimated to be over 200 different frog species in Australia – over 40 of these are considered threatened. Over 25% of Australia's frog species habitat is in the Wet Tropics World Heritage rainforest on the north east coast of Queensland. Our frog species are under threat from pollution and pesticides, habitat loss and degradation, climate change, introduced species and disease. Magnificent Tree Frog

Amphibian Research Centre - <http://frogs.org.au/>  
Frogs of Australia - <http://frogs.org.au/frogs/>  
Frogs Australia Network - [www.frogsaustralia.net.au/frogs](http://www.frogsaustralia.net.au/frogs)

## Bountiful Butterflies

A central Queensland entomologist says the unseasonal rainfall is responsible for an explosion in butterfly numbers in the Mackay and Whitsunday regions. Thousands of blue tiger butterflies have been seen flying en masse through the area after more than 150 millimetres of rain fell in one day last week. This phenomenon is not unexpected after a significant rainfall event.

Australian insects quite often don't go into hibernation, but instead they go into what is called aestivation, in which they get up to the pupa stage of their life cycle. Then they go into a sort of suspended animation and just sit there until there's some significant event in the environment that triggers them to continue their development.

# Your Giant Leap for Wildlife



Taronga is offering up to \$50,000 in the Taronga Green Grant/s to fund the best and most innovative project to inspire Australian communities to live more sustainably and have a positive impact on our wildlife.

The world's top minds agree that if we all keep using resources at the current rate, the earth will not be able to sustain our populations. Top scientists already conclude that one third of species on the planet could be extinct by 2050.

The Taronga Conservation Society Australia is looking for wholly original and innovative ideas to transform local communities and inspire people around the globe to embrace change.

We don't just want you to just have the idea; we want to help you put it into action!

With the Taronga Green Grants, together, we can help humans and wildlife share the planet into the future.

Examples of the types of innovation we're looking for include:

- Earth Hour: by demonstrating how easy reducing your footprint can be – [www.earthhour.org.au](http://www.earthhour.org.au)

- Clean Up Australia Day: by reducing the risk of devastating pollution in natural areas – [www.cleanup.org.au](http://www.cleanup.org.au)

Act4Nature: by providing clear, action oriented messages on how people can act for a better future - [www.act4nature.org.au](http://www.act4nature.org.au)

All applications must be submitted electronically to: Dr. Rebecca Spindler

Manager, Research and Conservation Programs

Taronga Conservation Society Australia

[rspindler@zoo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rspindler@zoo.nsw.gov.au)

**Ever had an idea  
that could change  
the world?**

"All we have to do to destroy the planet's climate ... and leave a ruined world to our children and grandchildren is to keep doing exactly what we are doing today, with no growth

in the human population or the world economy. Just continue to release greenhouse gases at current rates ... and the world in the latter part of this century won't be fit to live in. But, of course, human activities are not holding at current levels - they are accelerating, dramatically ... At current rates of growth, the world economy will double in size in a mere fourteen years."

James Gustave Speth, the Dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University

"... over the next forty to ninety years humanity will exceed - in all probability by around 100 per cent - the capacity of Earth to supply our needs."

Tim Flannery, Now or never: a sustainable future for Australia? Quarterly Essay, Sep 1, 2008

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# “Carwell’s” Open Garden

This garden was the winner of the Northern NSW “Sustainable Gardening Challenge 2008”, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW. .

For many years we enjoyed our farm house garden which included a few natives and many exotics from violets to poplars, largely the gifts or “pass-ons” from family and friends. About five years ago we sold our sheep stud, retained 45 breeding



cows, and increased our efforts in helping native animals.

It soon became

clear that we had created a little exotic oasis in the middle of eucalypt grassland. The plants were not supporting much more than noisy miners. We also needed a source of food for the native animals in our care.

So fences were moved out, built-up planting beds prepared, and lots of native plants were purchased from the Armidale Tree Group and the local branch of the Australian Plant Society. Coarse sand as a mulch allows every drop of water to soak in and weeds became much easier to remove. We soon learnt about microclimate, logs to re-direct frost and shade houses which could extend the range of plants which would survive our harsh climate.

Poplars, which were too friendly with the drainage pipes anyway, came down and very soon we felt the garden reconnecting with the surrounding countryside.

Quite by accident the garden has developed into four distinct areas:



.1 The entrance area has been densely planted and pathways covered in woodchip. A wide range of named species are represented and about 800 varieties or species fill the area.

.2 The north garden has been developed to cope with house surplus water in an environmental way. Dry creek beds are surrounded by grasslands, lilies, sedges and grass trees. Small pieces of history and ceramic sculptures are scattered through the area. A background of mallees will enhance the connection with the surrounding paddocks already filled with lots of box and red gums.

.3 A special interest in Casuarina has prompted the development of an arboretum and includes species from many States; some ground covers all the way up to the familiar oaks we see along rivers.

This area connects to a corridor joining to Yina Nature Reserve, which adjoins the eastern side of “Carwell”.



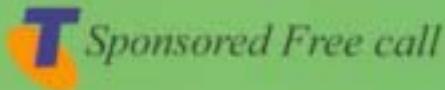
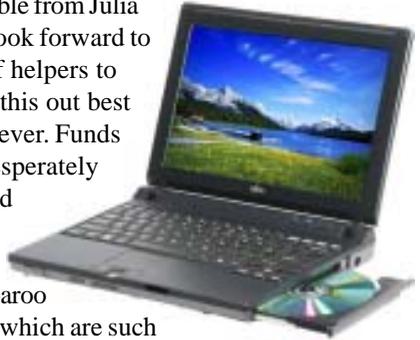
.4 Finally there is the original house garden area which still contains many exotics. They blend so well with natives such as Correa and Crowea and the original garden beds against the house provide great shelter for some special species.

Even though many plants are still in early growth, the birds have already increased in number. This is not a garden with mature trees, straight borders or neat plantings. It is a garden very much in its early stage of development and a compliment would be for a visitor to say that they look forward to visiting again in a few years time.

Julia and Phil Rose, Armidale, June 2008

**Meeting dates**  
**Fund Raising meeting 28th**  
**November 10.30am**  
**Lunch 12noon BYO**  
**Followed by;**  
**General Meeting , Time**  
**1.00pm'**  
**Come along and support**  
**your organisation**  
**Venue; Armidale Tree**  
**Group Woodland centre ,**  
**East Mann St. Armidale.**

\*\*\* Ticket books are available from Julia who look forward to lots of helpers to make this out best raffle ever. Funds are desperately needed to cover wombaroo milks which are such a big help for all our wonderful joey mums .  
\*\*\*\* Huge thanks to John Donnelly for donating such great prizes. Draw date 2<sup>nd</sup> December'



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**Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers**

**PO Box 550 Armidale 2350**

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