



**Rescue  
Rehabilitate  
Release**



Newsletter of The Northern Tablelands  
Wildlife Carers issue No 100 August 2013  
1800-008290 [ntwc.org.au](http://ntwc.org.au) [committee@ntwc.org.au](mailto:committee@ntwc.org.au)

## **Macropod Report – Armidale region June and July have been busy times**

by Diane Hansford

### **Latest Arrivals**

On 29 June, Montie, a 2.75kg Wallaroo female, whose mother had been shot, was rescued by a young man who has been working as a stationhand and visiting from France. Montie got her name as her rescuer was from Mont Blanc.

He found her in the paddock next to his home, after hearing shots a couple of nights before. Initially, he took her to the vet who advised that he should contact NTWC. Rebecca collected her from the Information Centre at Uralla. She was very frightened but with lots of reassurance from Rebecca, and mixing with others of her kind, she has now settled in to her new home.

Lucy, a 2.8kg Eastern Grey female, was found on 20 July, out on Rockvale Road about 27 km from Armidale. We are unsure of her mother's fate, but we think she was road kill. The people who found her said that she was found standing next to her mother. Lucy is still very shy but now starting to come out of her pouch and engaging with Monty.

### **Clover's recovery**

Since her operation on her leg in March of this year, Clover is now growing well and able to use her leg



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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

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to the full. Here is a photograph of Clover in full flight. The external fixtures were kept on her leg for about 7 weeks just to ensure that the bone had healed. It is wonderful to see her using her legs and enjoying life.

### **Eli and Romeo**

These two eastern grey males are good mates and spend much of the day in the paddock next to the house.

### **Newest additions to the Hanslie mob**

On Friday, 19 July, a male Eastern Grey was found in Felicity's driveway. Felicity lives on Bundarra Road just west of Armidale. He was unable to get up so we think that he was hit by a car on Bundarra Road but had made his way up their driveway for about 60



metres from the road. Felicity had phoned our 1800 number but because we were unable to get there quickly she had phoned the police to have him put down. In the meantime, Felicity sent us a photograph to show us his condition. It was then that we realised that he looked quite bright and didn't look like he had a broken leg.

Rebecca and Di decided to go to check him out before the police arrived. When we got there he was unable to stand but was using both legs attempting to push himself up. He was very stressed but we were able to cover him with a blanket to calm him down and then put him in a large bag and lifted him gently into the car.

With the weekend coming up, I decided to call the North Hill vet to see if they could check him for back injuries. Thanks to Sarah Butler who examined him. The spinal cord had not been crushed but there was swelling just above the pelvic region along the spine. Thankfully, he didn't have any broken legs, so we decided to take him home for some R & R.

Since his trauma, we have kept him in at night in the shed on a bed



made out of wool packs with straw in them. He seemed quite comfortable and warm. Initially, he was very wary but after a few days of food, water and massage, he has come around to accepting our attentions. Below are some photographs of the sort of treatment Alan has been giving him.



### Ellie's story

On 27 June, we received a call to say that a woman had been looking after a small joey for a week, but when she had become ill (and couldn't walk), she decided to call for help. We drove to a property east of Guyra to rescue this little one.

When we picked her up, she was very cold and wet. The people had been feeding her Divetalac but we are not sure how much or how many feeds she had been put on. She was extremely dehydrated and covered in runny faeces having had diarrhoea. She had sores on both of her heels and was sucking her hand, and so very stressed, cold and near death.

When we got her home, she weighed just 1031grams, but when we checked the length of her foot and tail, we realised from those measurements that she should have been around 1500grams. The people who found her said that she had lost a lot of weight over the week, so this made sense.

We immediately gave her 100ml of fluids under the skin and began to warm her up. It took 3 hours to get her temperature right, but once she was warm, we were able to start her on 0.6 Wombaroo milk. Her condition has steadily improved and she now weighs 1652grams. Still sucking her hand but slowly getting used to her dummy!



## Mark and Rachael's visit to Hanslie



Early in June, Rachael and Mark from Coonabarabran visited to see how Hugo, a handsome male Wallaroo, was going.

There are currently 4 wallaroos in care at Hanslie, but they have been getting regular visits from the wild local mob. One of these is our beautiful Saffron, who was released in July 2012. Saffron has a fully furred joey in pouch. We think it is a male as he is quite dark in colour. The joey is now putting his head out quite a lot.

Graham, our other male wallaroo, is quite taken by Saffron and when she comes in for a feed, he follows her around like a love-sick puppy!



Mark, a builder by trade and obviously good at woodwork, has made two kangaroo clocks and donated these to NTWC for a raffle. Thanks for this generous donation!

## Ginger's new joey!

We have some exciting news about our little Red-Necked Wallaby Ginger. In the last newsletter, I wrote about Ginger and the loss of her joey. Well, about a month ago, I thought that she was look-

ing a little larger in the pouch. Yesterday, Ginger, who hadn't been seen for about 3 or 4 weeks, came up to the front gate asking to be let in for a feed. Her pouch was definitely bigger and when I felt this little bump, it moved! Obviously, Henri (or another male Red-Neck) is lurking out there in the bush!



## Big girls are all well

Juliette, Tekla and Roo-B are all doing



well. We are planning to expand our house paddock and create another enclosure but further away from the house to slowly dehumanise these girls. We hope that by spring they will be near to release.

Tash and Taylor doing well

Tash (female Eastern Grey) and Taylor (Swampy) are still good mates and can often be seen having a spar. Taylor misses Tinker who

was released at the end of April. Well actually, he released himself but was definitely ready to go. We have caught a glimpse of a swampy that we think may be Tinker.



### Fred our first male Wallaroo

Last summer, Fred, our male Wallaroo, came back with red eyes. We treated him with Pawpaw Ointment and gave him a bottle to keep him still as we applied this ointment. On 13 June, Fred came home, very interested in Ruby and Correa, our two growing female Wallaroos. His eyes are looking much better as you can see..

**We are on Facebook. Get online and tell us what you are doing with your animal. Give us some photos and stories to share with the rest of the group**



**Our latest raffle is a hat rack/garden lizard, get some raffle tickets and sell! Sell! Sell! For our wildlife, we need at least \$4/\$5000 per year just for Wombaroo, plus vet bills and other expenses.**



# History of NTWC since incorporation in 1993.

20 years ago this year NTWC formed an independent wildlife caring group. After a couple of years of internal disputes within the wires branch our original members resigned and looked for other options. Help and encouragement from independent groups along the coast encouraged us to set up Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers. NPWS supported our application as long as our aims were broadened to a rural perspective to work with landholders to understand and conserve habitat. This remains in our constitution and is very much our focus today with the Land for Wildlife coming to our area. Membership grew rapidly from the initial eleven to a healthy 50 by the end of 1994. Proof of commitment shows with half of the original members remaining committed carers today.

Wonderful carers and members have moved on but have not been forgotten, they were all part of what NTWC stands for today.

Prior to 1989 caring for native animals had been such a hit and miss effort with NPWS officers taking in rescued animals and then trying to find suitable carers. A permit was required to take care of each animal, I still have my original one for a joey raised forty years ago. So the idea of groups who could train and authorise carers was an excel-

lent solution for the already fully occupied rangers. Wildlife caring came to the area when a training course was held at Newholme and Helen George came to encourage us to enter a whole new world. This inspired the setting up of a Wires branch. But problems began after several years when head office rules interfered with common sense issues, ego's overruled easy solutions then a public returning officer had to run a AGM, solicitors letters even began to arrive. It was too much and such a steep learning curve for volunteers who gave so much in their efforts to help native animals. Thus we began 'life after wires'.

NTWC's first committee re-



quired all of us to take on a duty and this we did with much joy and laughter and you can see this in the photograph of a meeting picnic at Little Langothlin Lagoon near Guyra. All groups have their

'ups and downs' as volunteers come together, I think we have worked through our problems with generosity and compassion and being local and responsible for ourselves has helped. We can't just leave issues for a head office to sort out with heavy handed rules. Mind you the arrival of 'codes of practice' with lots of 'Must do' may change our ways, I hope not. Last year the first 'inspection' by NPWS was carried out on NATF and has not been resolved to date. Dealing with volunteers is different to paid staff which needs to be considered.

NTWC training and experiences over the years has been amazing. We are not afraid to get out there and do what we can and have been out and about all over the region. We have done koala and flying fox surveys, joined 'search and rescue' trips after major bushfires, worked with Parks rangers and other groups. It was our encounter with the group who were running the Pilliga fire rescue in 1998 which resulted in us contacting Dept Agriculture. We could help by becoming a listed 'supporting organisation' and this continues today. Two members gained valuable on ground experience with NATF after the Port Stephens fire and again with Parks after the fire east of Tenterfield. These experiences led us to have a training course in map reading, fire

awareness and OH&S. Our aim was then to set up a 'rescue trailer' so we could set up a field first aid site in an emergency. Many other groups have achieved this but also include a display facility which works well. So many amazing rescues come to mind but who can forget the 'roo down a mine shaft' rescue at Metz which inspired us to do an abseiling course!

Looking back over 20 years as treasurer of NTWC I can see how important it has been to keep a bank account in credit. We survive on such a tiny budget relying heavily on membership



dues, fund-raising and grants. The formation of the Public Fund was in 1995 and our thanks go to our wonderful four trustees for assisting it to become a solid supporter to NTWC. One outstanding friend has regularly donated right from the start along with many other generous caring people. Fund-raising has been constantly on the agenda and we thank all those who have donated

raffle prizes. Carol and Alan Rose have been very generous and their love of fossicking for gems has often had us wishing for a lucky winning ticket of a beautiful ring



or pendant. Selling raffle tickets at stalls and displays in all sorts of venues has benefited our profile and we have found new carers and supporters .

Creating a float for the Armidale Autumn Festival was a regular activity in early years. We did well and finally achieved the winning float after finding a bigger truck with helpful driver. It was a lot of fun and we created lots of crazy animals. The blow up roo , platypus and penguin have always featured and are still being used every opportunity.

Working bees have been held to build several enclosures and aviaries. The Bird of Prey flight aviary

was constructed three times led by builder Alan Rose and the koala /wombat facility was which supported by a grant from the UNE union. The macropod pre release enclosure at Dinner Flat worked well for many years. A new effort is being put into another area at Baldersleigh and this is supported by a NWCouncil grant.

The formation of N.S.W. Wildlife Council was encouraged by Parks and Wildlife as a way to bring together all NSW groups. The incentive of insurance cover after costs had sky-rocketed ensured success. The idea had been discussed at a National Wildlife Conference held at the Gold Coast with Queensland and Victoria already showing the way. Our president Alan Rose was speaking up on our behalf and became our first council representative. NTWC remains committed to this and we hope today's issues are soon resolved.

Wildlife caring has come a long way with computers and mobile phones making life easier.

It is so quick if in range to remain in contact when searching for information and help. Who could ever imagine the benefits of being able to use a mobile phone to photograph a problem and have answers so quickly. It was such a lonely time early on when help was hard to find. Vets had little experience or training with native animals. This is why the arrival of Marcus Holdsworth as district vet with Dept of Ag had such an impact

on us. Suddenly they were saving birds with simple wing fractures by pinning with great success and Kaye Holdsworth knew so much about Birds of Prey. Together



er they taught us far more than all the training courses we had been to. Kaye also led us into the new world of research. She became the first Category C member of the UNE animal Ethics committee, a position NTWC members have filled continuously since. It has widened our horizons and introduced us into the research world and many wildlife studies. Here is the connection with the Masked Owl captive breeding project which led to Australian Geographic support for radio tracking of young owls during release. It also led to a crazy job of netting an open water tank near the aviary after several young ones had been caught inside. After years on the UNE committee I went on for another long term with CSIRO and they actually paid NTWC. This regular income enabled us to subsidise the purchase of wombaroo

for carers and continues today.

So where to from here? I hope we can continue to use our knowledge to save and protect the wonderful native animals we encounter. NTWC is respected and supported and we have been a successful group and reached some amazing goals.

My personal motto which has kept me going is 'Animals before Ego's' which has pushed me to search for the right answers no matter what.

Congratulations NTWC and Happy 20th Birthday.

Julia Rose

## LAND FOR WILDLIFE

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary property registration scheme that aims to assist landholders in maintaining wildlife habitats on their land.

Registration is free and non-binding, and it does not change the legal status of the property.

### The benefits of joining Land for Wildlife are:

- a free property assessment which includes an individual consultation to determine the environmental sustainability of a property and advice on how to manage environmental issues such as remnant wildlife habitat,
- the creation of wildlife corridors and how to integrate wildlife conservation into the property's management practices.

### For further information contact:

**Citizens Wildlife Corridors  
Armidale Inc.**

PO Box 1543  
Armidale NSW 2350

Tel: (02) 8004 8402

E: [office@cwcc-armidale.org.au](mailto:office@cwcc-armidale.org.au)





Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers proudly present

**2 Day Macropod Workshop by Renowned Macropod Specialist**

## Lynda Staker

**Saturday 14  
& Sunday 15  
September**



Cost: NTWC Members \$70 non-members \$100  
Includes Lunch  
Morning and afternoon tea and provided

Venue: Madgwick Hall, University of New England  
Armidale NSW

For bookings and information contact  
Macropod Coordinator: **Diane Hansford**  
**Mobile: 0408 256 643**  
After Hours: 6775 5729 / Fax: 6773 3878  
Email: [hanslie@harboursat.com.au](mailto:hanslie@harboursat.com.au)

## Control of feral animals back in the hands of NPWS

On 4 July 2013, the NSW Government announced that a trial of the Supplementary Pest Control Program would commence in 12 national parks. After this trial, a report would be delivered to cabinet and further national parks on the original list of 75 may be considered for the program. The details of controls and management reveal that campaign to stop amateur, recreational hunting in national parks has been won.

The trial program is fundamentally a professional hunting program and will be run entirely by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) staff. The program is back in the hands of the professionals who have always managed pest animals in NSW.

NPWS staff may bring in professional volunteers to help execute its professionally planned and managed programs, and such volunteers will have to go through the same training as NPWS staff. E.G: Undertake navigation training, species identification training, demonstrate competency etc.

Any pest eradication programs that NPWS staff utilise professional volunteers for will have one of two zones within it. There were previously three, and the third to be omitted was the 'scary zone' that permitted amateurs to carry out unsupervised hunting at their own discretion.

### The two zones that remain are Zone A and Zone B.

Zone A: Volunteers will be part of the NPWS team and working shoulder to shoulder with experienced NPWS staff.

Zone B: Experienced and trained volunteers are supervised by NPWS staff. This will include induction and daily safety briefings. Detailed reporting, data collection and debriefing requirements will also apply.

Site specific shooting plans with detailed maps will direct operations, with these being approved by NPWS regional managers consistent with regional pest strategies.

National Park will be closed to the public when pest eradication programs are taking place as has always occurred when NPWS have managed these programs.

A new addition to the rules around pest animal control is that there will be no shooting activity by NPWS at all in any national park during school holidays.

No minors will be allowed to hunt in any national parks despite lobbying from the Shooters and Fishers Party.

Unions of National Parks and Wildlife Service feel that the safety concerns they raised during the inception of the program have been adequately addressed.

The campaign to stop amateur,

**A Huge win  
for the "No  
Hunting" lobby**

recreational hunting in national parks has very much been won! The groups working on the campaign have committed to keeping a watch on the program and are now calling for:

Funds dedicated to the Game Council to be given to NPWS for strategic, integrated professional pest animal control programs, including further research into more humane methods of killing pest animals.

For the management and controls for pest animal programs in national parks to be also applied to our State Forests.

Thanks to everyone for their support to date.

Best regards Justin McKee, Campaign Coordinator, NPANSW

environment. When did humans have such disrespect for themselves. Mostly this rubbish was coca-cola, McDonalds (I don't know how that got so far from Armidale), flavoured milk containers and other rubbish. Why on earth have we become so disrespectful of our land?

Soon after I came across another



## Respect our wildlife

*Rebecca Evenden*

Where do I start. Today I stopped in front of a little baby Wallaroo who had been hit by a vehicle. Weighing just 5kg, this little baby was left to get crushed by other vehicles. As I picked up his limp little body and felt his warmth, I walked him over to the bushland to lay him down in the grass. Tears welled up in my eyes that this little boy had lost his life and his mother has lost her son. On the way back to my car I looked around and was disappointed at the amount of rubbish along the road. When did humans lose respect for our wildlife and natural

Wallaroo this time a female. She was laying in the middle of the road. I got out of my car and dragged her beaten body across the road and into the bush. I checked her pouch and found that the pouch had been ripped open. Signs of a fox. Now if the person who ended her life could of at least checked her pouch and called the local wildlife group. This little baby could have been saved and given a chance at life. Please if ever you have the unfortunate encounter with an animal, please check the pouch and pull the body off the road.

**Continued page 15**

**From Richard Biffin our snake expert relocated to Sth Aust.**

No bites, so far (touch wood), some really big, suprisingly angry Red Bellied Blacks over here, but the Eastern Browns are smaller, more relaxed and much less colourful.

I've also managed a few callouts for some supposedly rare and "vulnerable" Pygmy Copperheads (see pics), which I was over the moon about. They've since gone into a captive breeding program under permit and 14 offspring were conceived this season



**Pygmy Copperhead**

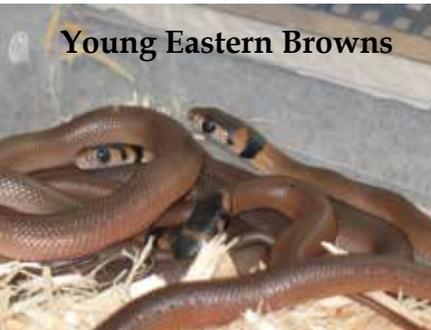
consequence, it appears everyone wants to rehab the cute and cuddlies (ringtail possums) and no one seems particularly interested in big stinky Brushtails/ Western Greys?? I guess

the Ringies are easier to accommodate and make for better "pet" material? Most members have suggested

I keep a low profile where Dept of Natural/ Conservation are concerned. I prefer the old system..."Boris" the Lacie wouldn't get a

look in over here.

Guess I shouldn't complain, I'm certain there must be those dedicated soules out there also and I haven't met the whole group as yet. I'm thinking muggins here will need a bigger block for all the large male Western Greys and big, stinky old Brushtails I'll be keeping for the term of their natural:( just joking, I hope)!



**Young Eastern Browns**

over here concerning rehab/release.

I've recently been in touch with a local Wildlife Org (Native Animal Network Inc) to do some volunteer rescue work and everything rehabbed must stay as captive it's entire life, no release, while all male mammals are desexed??

The reasoning being, according to "translocation studies" (of which I can find little evidence), the vast majority of human imprinted, captive raised mammals are dead within weeks once released. As a



**Tiny Teeny Tena a new pinkie, just arrived, hope of survival**

# Sugar Glider Rescue

This sugar glider had been chased up the side of a house, probably by dogs that reside on the property. The call came in early and I arrived on the property to find this small and very frightened sugar glider scrunched up on top of a window outside of the house. With the help of a ladder this



little animal was soon encased in a pouch, quiet, dark and safe. He spent the next 3 days in a quiet environment with food and water and was happy to be released back on the property, after dark, where the rest of his family lives. I'm sure that he will stay safely in the trees far away from the house in future.

## From page 13

That way the animal can RIP without being crushed to smithereens by other vehicles. I'm sure if you were lying dead in the middle of the road you would want to be pulled off and given respect that you deserve. Also it prevents other casualties from animals feeding off the body.

Our wildlife is so unique and so precious. We have the important role of looking after, caring for and making sure that our wildlife is protected and unharmed in any way. It's up to us Australians to show the world that we respect and value our land and inhabitants.

So please drive slowly, there's no rush! Check pouches and save a life, take the body off the road and please take your rubbish home and dispose of it in the correct manner.



**Come along 18th August to our AGM and General Meeting. Our speaker is from The "Land For Wildlife" organisation, Ingrid will tell us of the work they are doing for our landowners and our native wildlife.**

**Meeting dates  
18th August 2013  
Tree Group Mann  
St Armidale. This is  
our AGM so please  
come along. Time  
12.30. Followed  
by Gen Meeting  
speaker "Land for  
Wildlife"**

**We will be  
drawing our  
latest raffle.  
See page 5 for  
Lynda Staker's  
two-day course on  
Macropods**



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

**Northern rTablelands Wildlife Carers  
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