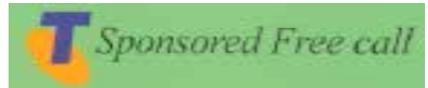




**Rescue
Rehabilitate
Release**



Newsletter of The Northern Tablelands
Wildlife Carers issue No 102 February 2014
1800-008290 ntwc.org.au committee@ntwc.org.au

Flying Fox Colonies Under Threat Jackie Maisey - Uralla

The photograph below shows the devastation that is happening every year now and is expected to increase with climate change. These bats were found underneath one tree in a colony with



hundreds of trees, so you can imagine the horrific scene that confronted carers trying to save some of these Flying Foxes. This problem arises when temperatures get above 42 degrees centigrade and the humidity is below 10. This hasn't happened so far here on the northern tablelands but does occur all along the coast.

Adults fall dead from the trees, the mothers give their last drop of moisture to their young, and then the young fall. Sometimes the young are still with the dead mother on the ground. This means that groups can get 50 to 100 young into care in one day, then more each day until the weather changes.



Continued page 3

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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. For 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.

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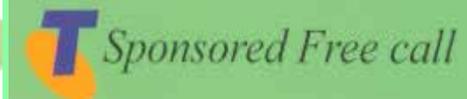
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I can hear you thinking, what has this to do with us? Well since the first of the modern heat stress events in the mid 1990s the flying fox carers of every group in NSW have banded together and manage somehow to transport and share these young, sometimes traveling more than 1,000 kms to collect these distressed young.

The Grey Headed Flying Fox is listed as vulnerable to extinct, so to let these animals die is to hasten their extinction, apart from the ethical considerations. It is estimated that this species of flying fox will have disappeared by 2040.



Each year, I manage to raise five or six flying foxes, and then return them to the coast when they are ready for the crèche BUT hopefully next year there will be another six carers who can take 1 or 2 each.

In the event that a disaster happens again at the end of the year, flying fox carers across the state will unite to help each other. It just goes to show what can be achieved when carers work together, and group borders and politics are ignored and the animals come first.

In January 2014, NTWC held two flying fox training days, run by Jackie Maisey, Bat Coordinator. Six members of NTWC spent a day at Jackie's place learning hands-on how to feed, toilet and clean the babies. The carers who came fell in love with these intelligent, delightful animals. Participants received training manuals and will need to be vaccinated for protection against the Lyssavirus if they wish to care for these beautiful animals at the end of this year. If you are interested in finding out more about caring for bats, please call our 1800 number for more information.



Possums in care

Rebecca Evenden, Christine
Buckeridge, Carla Borin, Di
Hansford

It has been a busy few months with a number of possum joeys now in care. Christine Buckeridge was caring for two beautiful Brushtail Possums that have now been relocated to Hanslie for release in the near future. They have settled in well and we are collecting as many of the native flora on the property so that they won't get too much of a shock when released. They are in an enclosure away from the house and underneath large eucalypt trees which should provide some good protection from their predators, the white owl.

NTWC had a call out from a member of the public on 6 February, who witnessed an adult Brushtail Possum hit by a car. Rebecca, who took the call, arranged for Colin to meet her in Uralla so they could catch the possum for an assessment. Sadly the possum died on her arrival. After checking the pouch, they realised the baby was missing so they began searching. Unable to retrieve

the baby, Rebecca drove home & placed the mother possum under a big gum tree to RIP. Three days later the baby was found! Colin rushed him to Rebecca's place where she could give him sub-cutaneous fluids. She placed him on a warm heat pad & waited for him to come back to life. It was amazing to see the recovery after being orphaned for 3 days!! He started to eat & drink his food. Every time he would wake up, there would be dirt & grit caked in his nostrils & eyes. "I gently wiped away the grime & he so tenderly looked up at me with such love & gratitude". Today after 4 days in care, Mr possum is doing really well.



At 4pm on a hot afternoon early in February, driving home on the New England Highway, we spotted an animal on the white line in the middle of the road. After quickly turning around to investigate, we saw that it was a Ringtail Possum crawling across the highway. We managed to scoop it up and avoid the oncoming truck and 4-wheel drive with caravan.



The possum was very dehydrated and began to lap water out of the lid of a water bottle we had in the car, on the way home. We gave him glucose in some water as well as fruit and fruit juice. It wasn't long before he was on the way to recovery.

This little one is now with Carla Borin, and joined up with another Ringtail male about the same size. He weighed just 130 grams when rescued but we hear that he is now gaining weight and enjoying playing with his new mate.

Black Mountain Possum

Diane Hansford

This young female had been living in the roof of the Black Mountain Public School. When an access door had been closed under the classroom, this little mother had tried to escape with her young joey. Unfortunately, she wedged herself under the door and peeled off the skin on her jaw and nose in the process.



Alan and Di attended the rescue call and mother and joey were taken to

North Hill Vet for assessment. After several visits, veterinarian, Libby Pagan, was able to save the lip, but, with little skin left on her jaw, was unable to fully stitch the lip back into place.

She is not the most beautiful mother but she and her joey are now released back into their home environment. Thanks to Julia for caring for this little one prior to her release at Black Mountain.



The possum box, in which they had been housed, was placed

in one of the large gum trees at Black Mountain.

Thanks to Alan for his skills in this area.



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.

White-bellied Eagles - Lake Inverell

Paul and Vanya - Inverell

We took a tour with Joey's Adventure Kayaking on Lake Inverell this morning, a wonderful way to see nature. We saw the beautiful white-bellied eagles and their magnificent nest.



Lake Inverell is a very popular recreation and rowing area on the eastern side of Inverell. There must be enough fish available in Lake Inverell for these birds to nest here.

NTWC have requested some visible tags be placed on the low power line which crosses the eastern end. Our concerns were sent to Inverell Council and Country Energy because of the possible injury to birds when the large pelicans and swans took off from the water. Swans with twisted

wings were seen on the water, and we saw other smaller ducks also unable to fly. If fishing is permitted then fishing line entanglement is a possible cause. We walked the edge track and didn't find any rubbish or line which was good to see.

Morning kayak tour with breakfast 30 dollars, fantastic, even saw a black snake swimming across the lake! Highly recommend it.

Joey's Adventure Kayaking tours
0427210359 check it out on Facebook
http://www.inverell.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=122&Itemid=78



Glen Innes Area Report

Kelly Stumbles

It's still pretty quiet here in Glen Innes, over the last 3 months we've only had 35 animal calls. Five of these were for macropods some of which are in care, others just needed moving out of town; a few calls for possums/gliders & one Little Red Flying-fox.



The majority of calls were for birds; most of which were Galahs; other species included Kookaburras, Magpies, King Parrots, Rainbow & Musk Lorikeets & Magpie Larks plus a few others.

At the moment there are 18

animals still in care in our area.



I also have 2 King Parrots as well.



Karen has an Eastern Grey Kangaroo around 5kg plus a Wallaroo that is semi released. New carer Michele also has an Eastern Grey Kangaroo. Finally Julie & Gary have a large family of macropods - 10 in total; 1 Wallaroo, 2 Red-neck Wallabies

and 7 Eastern Grey Kangaroos. A couple are soon to be released with some in pre-release, others in the smaller house yard & a few little ones.

I still have 3 Sugar Gliders – 2 should be released soon but unfortunately, the other will probably have to be euthanased due to his injuries.



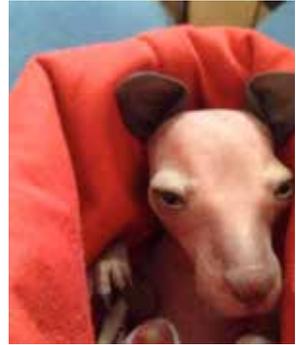
I've had no reptile calls at all in the last 3 months; it seems to be too hot even for them at the moment. Like most places it's very dry up here & we badly need rain. It must be awful for our wildlife out there at the moment.

Kelly – GI Co-ordinator

Bailey

Rebecca
Evenden

Day 3
Bailey's
eyes
were
opening
up.



This little Eastern Grey came into care weighing only 355grams. His mum dropped him after being chased by dogs. In that time, little Bailey's ears had lifted, his eyes opened & he had gained over 200grams.

Sadly on the 8th of February at 2am, Bailey passed away. He became sick after an Eastern Grey joey named Rio came into care with a sickness. All the joeys became sick. They were sneezing & coughing. Sadly Bailey was the last to contract the disease & his little body couldn't cope. His thymus glands disappeared & his health declined rapidly. All the other joeys in care have recovered.

I am on the look out for a humidicrib. If anyone knows of where I can get one, please call the 1800 wildlife number.

Koalas have found an ideal home in Armidale.

Julia Rose - Armidale

Residents may be seeing or even hearing more Koalas in town these days. Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers have been keeping records of Koala sightings, rescue and relocations for the past 20 years and know their numbers are increasing. It may happen that Armidale could become an important habitat for a colony as adult male and breeding females take up residence



Photograph by Kim Quin reprinted with his permission

A good food source is enticing them to stay despite hazards such as dogs and traffic. Trees selected for the Armidale street planting programme included a favourite Koala food tree. It is eucalyptus nicholii or small-leafed peppermint, which grows naturally to the east of Armidale. Also growing in parks and reserves are Eucalyptus Viminalis or Manna Gum and Eucalyptus Blakelyi or Blakely's Red Gum. Both species are a good koala food and have a good healthy canopy of leaf

compared to the surrounding rural areas.

On hot summer days koalas will seek shade in cooler introduced trees and are often being found in the most unlikely places. If residents find a koala making its way along fences or roadways they just need to give them some space to navigate to safety. One was recently spotted at the Coles complex doors, maybe looking for some air-conditioned comfort on a very hot day .

NTWC can assist if necessary but prefer to leave them to find their own way at night. Catching Koalas is never easy as they are not the cuddly animals one imagines with big claws and a hefty bite. One health problem koalas suffer from, and require treatment for, is caused by Chlamydia Pneumoniae and Chlamydia Pecorum which presents as eye infections and a wet bottom. There are several local koalas being treated in the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital after being transported from the Uralla Wires Koala care centre.



**Photograph of 'Possum John'
by Rick Porter from UNE**

One patient *Kenny* was rescued by NTWC with the help of the Origin Energy staff who helped with their truck and lift bucket. Thanks to them *Kenny* is now making good progress and will hopefully be back soon. Koalas are lucky to have a team of volunteers at Port Macquarie Koala Hospital , NTWC and WIRES helping them and donations and support for these organisations are very welcome.

NTWC Upcoming 2014 Courses

Fire Awareness for Wildlife Rescuers

Date: Saturday 15th February
Cost: \$15 for certificate,
Time 9am - 12midday
Venue: TBA
(Awaiting final numbers! We
need 12 and only have 9 to date)
**Urgently, contact Julia if you are
able to attend!**

Basic Introductory Course for NEW Carers

**All new members, and those
wishing to rescue animals,
are required to attend a Basic
Introductory course.**

This course will cover the
following items:

- NPWS licence and our requirements
- Record keeping
- Basic equipment required for rescues
- Basic animal first aid
- Funding available to carers
- Growing your own food for wildlife

Armidale NTWC Basic Introductory Course

Date: Saturday March 8th or
Sunday 9th March
Cost: \$10 for members
(Includes Basic Introductory
Course Manual)
Light lunch will be provided
from 12 - 1pm
Time: 1 - 4:30pm
Venue: Woodland Centre,
Armidale Tree Group, 80
Mann Street, Armidale.

Inverell NTWC Basic Introductory Course

Date: Saturday April 5th or
Sunday 6th April
Cost: \$10 for members
(Includes Basic Introductory
Course Manual)
Light lunch will be provided
from 12 - 1pm
Time: 1 - 4:30pm
Venue: Information Centre,
Inverell (TBC)

Tenterfield NTWC Basic Introductory Course

Details: TBC

Macropod Report

Diane Hansford

It has been a busy time for us over the past few months. Since the end of 2013, a number of the larger roos have been released at Hanslie but with the worsening weather conditions, the pastures are dry and even some of the young Eucalypts are dying. Some of our pre-released macs are coming back for a feed. We have been buying in Working Horse Mix to supplement those inside and out. Special thanks to Mark and Rachael from Coonabarabran, who recently visited and donated some feed.

The good news is that Ginger's new joey was out of pouch and looking fine. It is very shy and so we are not sure if it is a girl or boy. Below is a photograph from December when things were looking much greener!

Currently in care, we have two wallaroos, Rosie and Nicky, one Red Neck, Mannie who is keen to get out with Ginger but still a bit too small.

Our latest edition is Bubba (or Rug Rat as Kelly named her!) is doing well but at Christmas, we had to take her to the vet for an xray, as her foot was folding under (after one of the Eastern Greys greeted her by jumping on her). She is doing much better, however, the vet discovered an anomaly with one of her vertebra in her lower back, which seems to be a congenital defect. We are hoping that this will not impact on her development but are keeping an eye on her and making sure the bigger roos don't repeat their welcome!



The Eastern Greys, from the last weigh in are - Willow 2.1kg; Bonnie 3.2kg, Jai 6.2kg, and Ellie 7.1kg. Gilgai and Garah have now both been weaned but still too immature to go. Romeo, Tekla, Juliette, and Tasha come and go each day. Eli took off several weeks ago and we expect that he has joined up with the local mob. He was certainly feeling his oats! Too many stories to fit into this newsletter, as between us, Rebecca and I have cared for around 18 Macs this season!

We need your help to update our new membership contact list

At our last committee meeting Carla Borin was nominated as the Membership Officer and Carla has begun to put this together.

If any of your personal details have changed, please let us know.

- Do you have a new email address?
- Do you have a new phone number?
- Has your address changed?
- What training courses have you completed in 2013 (this is required for Authorisation status)?
- Do you prefer the newsletter to be emailed or posted?
- Are you available for rescue?

Please contact Julia <jrosecarwell@bigpond.com> or Carla <scarlott3@bigpond.com> with changes.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

Julia Rose

NTWC recommends this conference to all members, lots of training credits are given now, great connections and many new friends to make. AND you can extend stay for a Tasmanian holiday.



A REMINDER Early bird discount for registrations for the 9th Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference is at the end of this month. Discount closes on February 28th and the choices for the Thursday workshops are filling fast, so go to the conference website awrchobart2014.org.au and check out the great excursions, plan your extra time, download and process the paperwork NOW. If you are a facebook user, you can follow the various posts and comments.

Wildlife Rescue App

Wildlife Rescue App, a free mobile phone application - the first of its kind in Australia - aims to empower people by putting them in direct contact with the nearest rescue organisation in NSW, at the touch of a button. Downloading and using this simple, yet effective App is an easy and direct way to help our native wildlife.

IFAW and the NSW Wildlife Council partnered to develop this App. The timely launch of the Wildlife Rescue App means there's now a chance of saving injured or orphaned wildlife, especially in the days and weeks after a bushfire when animals are displaced and seeking food and shelter.

The Wildlife Rescue App is available on the Apple Store and the Android Market, or if you are viewing this page on a mobile device, by going directly to the IFAW Wildlife Rescue App website.

Alternatively you can type this URL directly on to your

mobile phone's browser:
wildliferescue.ifaw.org

<http://www.ifaw.org/australia/our-work/animal-rescue/help-rescue-wildlife-nsw-download-our-app>



Meeting dates 2014

- 16 February 2014
- 18 May 2014
- 17 August 2014 (AGM)
- 16 November 2014

Where and When?

Armidale Tree Group
80 Mann St, Armidale.

Carers Forum 12 - 1pm

BYO Lunch

General Meeting 1 - 3

 *Sponsored Free call*

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

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