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**Newsletter of The Northern Tablelands
Wildlife Carers issue No 99 May 2013
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Macropod Report – Armidale

by Diane Hansford

The last few months has seen the number of injured and orphaned macropods slowing down. Over the next few months, we will see an increase again with feed becoming scarcer and with the females feeding along the sides of the roads.

Over the past few months, we have had several events with our macropod population, some successes and some disappointments.

Arrivals at Hanslie

At the end of January, Roo-B (an adult Eastern Grey) arrived with Nikki Rochford, and David Hadley her carers.

Being an adult kangaroo, we were all quite worried as to how well she would relocate. Roo-B was used to being a lone roo and initially didn't have the communication skills to join in with the girls Juliette and Tekla. Now, after nearly three months, she is beginning to settle in well and is mixing with the other girls on most days.

Our next arrivals were Scooby Roo (Tash the Eastern Grey) and Swampy (Taylor). Kelly Paul, a carer from Ash-

ford, north of Inverell, needed to relocate these two and so she brought them



RooB mixing with Tekla and Juliette

to Hanslie. Since we already have a Swampy called Tinker, Taylor seemed to be the logical name choice for our new arrival. These two are such a pair. When they first arrived, Taylor used to sleep with his two front paws on Tash's shoulder. As you can see in the picture, they are great mates.

Taylor initially was a bit worried about Tinker being so much bigger than he was, but they now have morning and evening scraps and even seem to enjoy

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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. 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



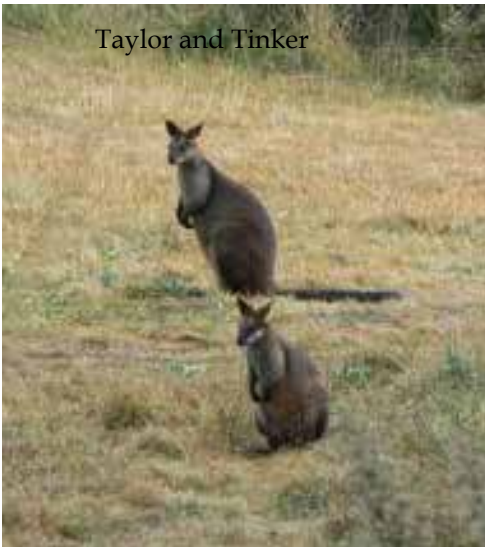
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Since the arrival of Tash, Roo-B seems



to have begun to make friends with the rest of the mob. Tash tends to sit under the trampoline with Juliette and Tekla on most days, but on occasions, like today, Tekla was sitting with Roo-B next



to the water tank to keep cool.

Over the Easter weekend, Garah (Eastern Grey female) came to visit with her carer Jane Perston. Jane has been caring for Garah since November 2012. Garah's mother was found dead in a car garage on a property east of Armidale.

When rescued, Garah was very dehydrated with ulcerated eyes, dry skin, covered with dried exudate and very weak. It appeared that the mother had not been caring for her as her skin was unusually dry and covered with exu-



date that the mother has in her pouch. Normally, the mothers clean their pouches, which is thought to stimulate the skin into producing more exudate (Staker 2006, p. 287), but in this case, it appeared that the mother

was too ill to do this prior to her death. We are unsure why the mother died but it may have been poisoning as she had a yellowish discharge from her nose.

Garah is now doing very well and was relocated to Hanslie at Easter. Initially, she settled down well but then developed diarrhoea, which we assume was from the stress of changing from one carer to another. There was no strong odour to the faeces, and so we assumed that it was stress related. We added a small amount of natural yogurt to her milk, gave her lots of roots and dirt to eat and eventually she was back to normal with nice firm pellets. She has now settled in and is becoming quite bossy! Garah and Gilgai have become good mates and spend most days hanging around together!

Sad days at Hanslie

The loss of our little Red Neck Jack was very sudden and totally unexpected. The night before Jack died, he was running around the shed and seemed fit and healthy. That night, he wasn't particularly interested in his milk and only



Jack

drank a small amount. He had some scouring after that and the next morning we found him dead in his pouch.

We decided to take him to the North Hill vet for a post mortem. The post mortem showed that Jack had a twisted bowel up high near the base of the Caecum. Sarah Butler did the post mortem and said that twists in the bowel can just



Garah and Gilgai

happen and that there was no explanation for this. Jack brought so much joy into our lives and we miss him terribly.

A few weeks ago, another sad event occurred when our Ginger (Red Neck Wallaby) came back home without her



Ginger's Pouch

joey. We hadn't seen her for about three weeks, when she appeared at the side gate. Part of her pouch was hanging out and she was looking quite distraught.

She came inside the house paddock but kept looking up into the bush. That was on Saturday 13 April. She was keen to go back out, so Alan and I decided to try to follow her. We kept up with her for a short while, but were unable to climb up the rocks and soon lost her. She came back again the next day, still with the pouch skin hanging out but looking less swollen.

We think that somehow the baby joey

got caught and kicked Ginger as it was pulled from the pouch. The swollen skin was bruised and the two layers of skin



were separated. Again, I sought advice from Sarah Butler, who looked at the photographs I had taken. She suggested that we needed to weigh down the pouch so that the layers of skin had a chance to heal. After some discussion, we decided a wheat heat pack might work. I purchased a small heat pack from the chemist and when I got home, I coaxed Ginger to let me push it into



5 days, which we did, as this was the time it would take for the skin heal. This worked beautifully and now her pouch is back to normal.

A sad loss for Ginger but we hope that her pouch is now healed well enough to cater for another joey in the years to come.

Clover's story (see her and carer on page 14)

her pouch. The shape was not easy to push in, so we got a small sock and transferred the wheat into it and tied it to prevent loosing any wheat. It was just the right shape and fitted nicely in her pouch.

On Sunday 10th march, Rebecca Evenden had a call to pick up an Eastern Grey Joey from the vets. The joey was found standing next to her mother on the side of the road. The initial

Sarah advised to leave it in for around

assessment by the vet was that she was healthy and fine to go to Rebecca as carer.

On Tuesday 12th March, Rebecca noticed that her left ankle was really swollen and took Clover to the vet at North Hill for further assessment. They x-rayed her leg and found that there was a break in her femur. Dr Craig Bailey operated on Clover and was pleased with the result of the operation. Clover was put onto antibiotics and an anti-inflammatory/pain killer (with carafate).

The splint has remained on her leg for seven weeks and is due to be taken off this coming week. Clover has been gradually increasing her movement as is now hopping around. We are hopeful that the operation has been a success and that the break has healed.

Hugo's ordeal - Wallaroo male from Coonabarabran

Several weeks ago, Hugo began scratching at his jaw. When I checked it, he had a lump under the right hand side of his lower jawbone. We were concerned that the lump may be due to lumpy jaw. We ended up taking Hugo to South Tamworth Animal Hospital to the vet, Peter Best, who has a high level of expertise with anaesthesia and surgery. Peter advised we needed to take some radiographs of the jaw, as well as take a sample of bone and send off for a biopsy. The biopsy result indicated that there was a strepto-

coccus infection, so a different infection to lumpy jaw. The advice was that bone infections are difficult to eliminate and so a course of the antibiotic *Clindamycin* was recommended for a period of 5 weeks.

Obviously, giving Hugo antibiotics for this length of time was of concern as we thought that his gut flora could be destroyed. He has now finished the five-week course of antibiotics and appears to be well. He is not scratching at his jaw anymore, the lump remains, but we are hoping that the infection is all clear.

Hugo has become one of the mob with Graham, Correa and Ruby. He loves to spar with Graham in the early evening and now stays outside all night with the big kids!



Wom AKA Tweedle

We have had the privilege of having 'Tweedle' re-named 'Wom' as a new resident on the property. He turned up unexpectedly in January 2013 when Emily moved North.

A brief background about one of our desires for the property: Our intention is for our property to become God's Garden on Earth, a place that all God's



creations and creatures (great, small, microscopic) can live and flourish in abundance (flora and fauna). We were very excited that the Law of Attraction brought a Wombat to release on the property.

Wom rocked up, settled in without much fuss, promptly moved in under the house, rapidly got his bearings in the house paddock and more slowly has expanded his territories to further afield. When we do see him (which is irregularly now) we take him for walks to places he may not have ventured and

feel that he will end up finding a perfect place to reside permanently. It is like he creates 'safe' places to move over greater distances.

He ventures far and wide now and we don't see him for days on end. We know where he has been due to trails through long grass, fresh digging patches and small squarish poo piles. He was intended for a hard release but due to hot weather and him being a smaller wombat, Emily recommended keeping him in a cooler place where we could keep a bit of an eye on him for a time until he was settled. He is now capable of digging and we feel he is very able to fend for himself if need be. We leave him to his own devices and only see him when he wants to come and say 'hi'.

Pete and his parents know a bit about wombats, having lived in The Southern Tablelands (South of Sydney) and cared for and hand reared a number there some years ago. For me, it has been a whole new experience and one which has been thoroughly enjoyed. Wombats are totally amazing creatures and to have the joy and privilege of seeing one up close has been such an amazing gift. He is total personality and we have learned fast and through experience.

The first night he arrived we were awoken to screams in the night from our youngest son, on investigation we found wombat had pushed open the front door, had jumped into Archie's bed and was nipping him in his sleep. The front door now gets locked at night to prevent

intruders.
On the second day of Wom's residence we had a rather funny experience. We



be. I wasn't aware that wombats could open doors or that they liked to tuck themselves up in beds with blankets. Since then, we keep the sliding door firmly locked also and have prevented unwanted intrusions. We are not keen on animals in the house at the best of times, though it was quite amusing and a reminder that wombats are seriously intelligent.

We have noticed that Wom only has to be shown a nice place once and he can get there no matter how far away or how tricky the trail. They are amazing navigators and know the tastiest patches of grass you can imagine!

We hope that Wom will attract a few more wombat friends over time to the area. He has as many acres as he could want to roam in, build burrows and forage in and we feel he has made a positive transition to his new habitat.

We look forward to having other fauna released here in the future if the conditions are favorable to NTWC.



went out for a few hours, as we do most days, and came home for morning tea. Izabella went into our bedroom for something and suddenly there was a 'wombat alert' call put out. We went in to find Wom spreadeagled in the middle of the bed as happy as happy can

Would you like to have reminder of your animal to keep. Send me a photo of your animal and we will make a calico cushion cover or a calico bag with your animals photo. Cost \$7 +Postage.

The story of Wom AKA Tweedle

Wombats in care,

To care for and be a wombat 'Mum' is one of the most rewarding roles a wildlife carer can have.

I am talking about an orphaned wombat joey at the 'emerging from pouch stage' and has



survived after its mother had been killed. These joeys need to bond to their foster parents totally until their teenage hormones drive them to search for a partner. While 'in care' they dominate their new home, leave their teeth marks on furniture and demand company and familiarity..... and food. I have had the privilege of raising two orphaned female wombats and both are very special. They made us adapt to their ways and needs, we helped them dig several burrows until they were satisfied with the design and tried to keep them safely

barricaded inside a fenced enclosure. Trips away were fine when they were small enough to come too and stay in their pet carrier cage but later on it meant finding wombat loving house sitters and friends to live in. I was lucky enough to have an experienced wombat carer close by when looking after second wombat so she just adapted to having two lots of parents. As we do not live in wombat territory, we were faced with the dilemma of finding a safe release site. Thankfully I managed to find a friend on a property close by to their original territory and release them when they wanted to leave home at 2kg+.

Another wombat joey NTWC has had in care was a male from the same area south of Walcha. He also found a loving family to grow up with and he lived closely with the younger members. A couple of times he stayed here briefly for a holiday camp. Timing is crucial it seems for male wombats, their weight and readiness to do battle with a wild population. He was moved to a new family when in a transition stage when he needed to grow more before going, so

my first release site was not an option. His second home had one big disadvantage and that was the very fast flowing highway not far enough away from his new home. He adapted well to his family who adored him



and he soon began to discover a new territory . But the highway was to the south and all our wombats seem to be drawn to the south which is where the main population is. Wombats have a wonderful sensory organ and can find other wombats many kilometers away. Their eyesight however is not great especially during daylight .

So it is with a heavy heart and some regret that I have to report the death of Wom - Tweedle who became another statistic.

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.



A Welcome to *Land for Wildlife* on the

Northern Tablelands

by Ingrid Calf

“This wonderful voluntary program has now arrived in our region thanks to Citizens Wildlife Corridors (CWC) who



are the ‘regional provider’ on the Northern Tablelands”, says Julia Rose.

What does this mean? Well, *Land for Wildlife* is expanding and landholders all over Australia are setting aside “land for wildlife”. At last, our native animals are being thought about and areas of bushland are being restored, regenerated and set aside as habitat for them.

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary property registration scheme that aims to assist landholders to maintain wildlife habitat. 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.

In addition, *Land for Wildlife* offers landholders the opportunity to participate in workshops, meet like-minded people, and receive up-to-date information via fact sheets and regular newsletters.

Julia Rose has followed this program for many years. “I have read the excel-



JULIA AND PHILLIP ROSE

lent informative, helpful newsletters encouraging and helping landowners to understand native lands” she goes on to say, “and CWC has approached this issue in a similar manner with the aim of



Booboo: my story

Hi, my name is Booboo and I am a Ringtail Possum. I lost my mother to a cat. The cat and her friends were left at a farmhouse, where no one was living, to eat mice. The cat was starving and



replanting, gaining funding for fencing to connect corridors of vegetation. So it is a great to see the combination of these two organisations.”

“Phillip and I are delighted to be the first in this region to register our back paddock as a *Land for Wildlife* site. This paddock consists of sixteen ha. of native woodland which forms a buffer zone to a nature reserve. We have reserved this area as a safe release site for hand-reared and relocated native animals which we care for as licensed carers and members of Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers.”

“It is fitting that *Land for Wildlife* and *Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers* (NTWC) should work closely together. This will help NTWC to locate suitable release sites for native animals requiring relocation from urban areas. It will also help NTWC find wildlife supporters.”

For more information about *Land for Wildlife* visit the web site www.cen.org.au or contact Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale Inc. at (02) 8004 8402, email office@cw-carmidale.org.au or visit the website at www.cw-carmidale.org.au.

killed what she could to stay alive, and so the wildlife had to pay for what stupid people thought was a good idea! Now I live with my new mum. I weigh 80 grams and am doing well. Part of my tail got chewed off, but it still works okay. Some day, when I’m grown up, I will go back to the wild, but I will live in a safer place. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to the people who went to work on the farm that day. They saved my life, and took me to my new mum. I wish everyone could read my story and not leave cats on farms with no food. Thank you. Booboo

Macropod training course

....(resheduled.)

Learn how to handraise
wallaby and kangaroo joeys.

Date Sunday 26th May

Venue: Mike O'Keefe

Woodland Centre ,

Mann St , Armidale

tutors : Julie Willis

and Gary Wilson.

Cost : \$5 current members,

\$25 new members.

Light lunch and refreshments
provided for donation.

Registration 9am .

Julia Rose

jrosecarwell@bigpond.com

or 1800 008 290.

Teaching Wildlife That Toads Ain't Tasty from Australian Wildlife E-News -

by Linda Dennis

Australia's native animals are being fed nauseating sausages of cane toad meat in a bid to train them against eating the toxic species as it spreads into new areas, researchers said. Cane toads, a warty, leathery creature with a venom sac on their heads toxic enough to kill snakes and crocodiles, are advancing across north-western Australia at a speed of 50 kilometres (31 miles) a year. They were first introduced to Australia from Hawaii to control scarab beetle populations in the 1930s and have now reached pest proportions, breeding prolifically and with few predators. Native animals, particularly small

marsupials and lizards, will die if they eat a full-grown adult and conservationists are attempting to give them a repellent first taste of toad to train them against seeing it as food.

Tiny sausage-shaped baits made of cane toad flesh with the poison removed have been laid out in native quoll, dingo, snake and lizard habitats, laced with a salt that induces instant nausea, forcing the animal to spit it back out.

"The animals are therefore likely, if they encounter anything and they bite it and it tastes



like a toad, smells like a toad, they're going to remember back to that horrible experience," David Pearson, from Western Australia's Department of Environment and Conservation, said. Field trials were already showing success, with motion-sensitive cameras at the bait sites recording animals eating and then spitting out the sausages. Dingoes, a native wild dog, had been seen to "pick up one of these things, go a couple of metres and then spit it out and roll all over it," Pearson said.

The baits were designed to see native wildlife through the first wave of toads into a new region. The earliest toads to arrive are usually particularly large and toxic, and it was important to avoid them, Pearson added.

Quolls, a carnivorous marsupial also commonly known as the native cat, have become endangered in parts of northern Australia due to the spread of cane toads and Pearson said it could take a local population "decades" to regenerate, upsetting fragile native ecosystems.

There was no known way to kill or control

cane toads and Pearson said only climate – a lack of water or cooled conditions – would act as a natural brake on their rapacious march across Australia.

“They’re in the landscape but at least, with these baits, we’ll still have our native predators in the landscape as well,” he said.



Blue Belly Black snake



Clover and her carer Rebecca Even-den, after having pins removed from Clover’s leg.

Bats and bat carer says thankyou for support.

by Julia Rose

Caring for injured or orphaned micro bats and Flying Foxes is something Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carer Jackie Maisey loves doing. Her skills have been called upon by Sydney wildlife groups when hundreds of exhausted birthing Flying Foxes dropped their young pups in the colonies.

The hot dry weather before Christmas had reduced the nectar source in the forest trees and the animals were in very poor condition. The number of casualties overwhelmed local carers so licensed carers statewide were asked to help. Jackie collected four young pups and has raised them to a point where they are able to join other young flying foxes families in a bat crèche. Flying Foxes have been identified as key pollinators of native forest trees, some of which will only germinate after being through the gut of these



native fruit eating mammals.

The story of the bats plight has



required to house micro bats after they are removed from house cavities where they have become unwelcome guests. This way, the tiny bats have a warm and safe roost and stay within their known territory. These amazing tiny mammals do an important job eating masses of mosquitoes every night and are very much a part of the whole system we live in.

Julia Rose NTWC co-ordinator

reached the internet. Support has been received from International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the New South Wales Wildlife Council (NWC) to help fund carers efforts. NTWC has



Bettong

received funding which will help cover transporting costs and the purchase of special foods. This has been a wonderful boost to the volunteer efforts of all wildlife carers, especially local carers. There are other animal support projects by IFAW and these can be seen on their web site www.ifaw.org

Local support has also been received from Armidale Dumaresq Council which has given a community grant to NTWC to assist micro bats. The money has helped pay the Armidale Mens Shed to construct small bat boxes. These are



A group of Blue Tongues

Meeting dates
Next Meeting 19th

May 2013 Tree
Group Mann St
Armidale 1.30 pm
Come along and
hear our mystery
speaker to hear some
interesting news
about wildlife care.

**Our new Raffle
has hit the streets
see pics page 10
\$1 each
buy/sell for our
wildlife.**



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

Northern rTablelands Wildlife Carers
PO Box 550 Armidale 2350
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