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**Newsletter of The Northern Tablelands
Wildlife Carers Issue No 96 November 2012
Phone - 1800-008290 www.ntwc.org.au**

A Story of Three Joeys

by Rebecca Evenden

On the first August 2012 a beautiful 2.5kg Wallaroo "Ruby" came into my care. Ruby was a little under weight and had diarrhoea. After a few days of feeding and speaking softly to her, she has become very close and now calls me "mum"

Three months later, Ruby is now 6kg and is the boss of the household. Every morning at 6am Ruby comes into my bed and demands by biting and kicking me to get out of bed to make her bottle. Sometimes I let her out into the front yard but she only stays there for 10 minutes and comes bolting

into the room and flies through the air landing on



Ruby Eli & Samuel

the bed, grinding her teeth, laying her head down for a cuddle. My favourite saying to Ruby is "I love you Ruby Roo".

I collected "Eli" from a wires member who had

been caring for the Male Eastern Grey for 4 days prior to being in my care. Eli was found under the car who hit the mother. It took the driver 1 hour to rescue him. I put my hand up and collected him in the car park out the back of Priceline on the sixteenth July 2012.

Eli was 1.5kg when he came into care. Now he is 4kg and growing very well.

He likes to sleep lots and has a beautiful gentle nature. Around 7pm he gets frisky and runs around the house jumping over things and diving into his pouch.

Samuel, a baby Wallaroo who came to me on the third October 2012, was orphaned by a road accident. The lady who hit the mother and saved the

continued on page 14


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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

 *Sponsored Free call*

new england **mutual**



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Avian Infections and reasons NOT to feed wild birds.

In a recent article in *Australian birdlife journal* there is an article about recent deaths of parrots.

‘The disease is identified as **necrotic enteritis** caused by an overgrowth of bacteria *Clostridium perfringens* in the



birds gut. This is thought to be caused by an overload of carbohydrates stemming from inappropriate supplementary feeding and poor hygiene at artificial feeding sites. Apart from mortality, necrotic enteritis can cause diarrhoea, vomiting, regurgitation or lethargy in infected birds.

Unlike Psittacosis which is another disease causing deaths in lorikeets, necrotic enteritis is not a disease which people can catch from birds’.

In our area the rescued parrots found on the ground and in very poor condition during winter or after wet weather survive overnight at best. King parrot deaths in Tenterfield and Glen Innes are

very high as well as in Armidale. All the symptoms are the same.

NTWC has been making the most of every chance on our stalls to advertise this problem and to discourage town residents from placing ‘wild bird mix’ and nectar feeders out. After all it is *no different to all of us eating with our fingers from one plate.* Fermentation of old seed and fruit after rain in warmer months which has remained to ‘feed’ wild birds is just as big a problem.

Natural food sources for birds can be grown in the garden are ideal especially as we have lots of suitable native plant species available now. We should not be enticing native parrots and other pretty birds to feed on handouts just because we think they need food or we enjoy watching them close up in our gardens.

Julia Rose

**General meeting 18th
November Tree Group
Mann st Armidale
1.30 PM. Come along
and hear about what
your group has done in
the last three months.
New members
particularly welcome**

Your website

There are a few new additions to our 'Training and Information' website at www.training.ntwc.org.au

All the forms we use are now able to be filled out on-line and emailed directly to the person involved eg. committee@ntwc.org.au this will go to all 7 members of the committee a new help for carer email carer-help@ntwc.org.au will go to all our co-ordinators and experienced carers, There is just about everything you wanted to know about caring for our native wildlife. Lots of tips for all who love our animals. There is even a file on how to build your own native bee house.

Please utilise this site. Anything you would like to see on it just let me know at committee@ntwc.org.au

New publications and posters

celebrating our natural environment are now available FREE at the Southern New England Landcare INC office in Beardy Street, Armidale.

1. "Native Plant of Southern New England NSW" - a colour pictorial brochure for those who wish to grow local (SNEL INC, HICUB project: supported by Environmental Trust).
2. "Sticks and Stones" (Sontter & White) - a guide to Aboriginal artefacts of the Border Rivers & Gwydir catchments (BR-G CMA). CD's of the booklet are also available.
3. "Meet the Locals" posters hot off the press from Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA. Great for laminating and hanging on the class room or office walls, these posters outline common invertebrates of the catchment, lizards, frogs, fishes, and weeds.

The Landcare office hours are Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, level 1, opposite the entrance to Hannah's Arcade. The office can be contacted on 6772 9123.



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The Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers Inc

PO BOX 550 ARMIDALE 2350

TRAINING & INFORMATION SECTION

Please do NOT attempt to handle snakes, bats, adult koalas or adult kangaroos and wallabies as they can cause serious injury.

Relocated roos, Wallaroos & Swamp Wallaby.

by Dianne Hansford

There has been a flurry of activity with a significant number of animals coming in care. Most of these have been the result of road kill.

It's been full on for the past two months at *Hanslie* Baldersleigh with a number of new additions!

On the 10th September, a number of carers visited *Hanslie* to have a day out with the mob with the idea of soft release for Graham, Juliette and Tinker. Graham (male wallaroo) was the first to arrive on 10th September and has settled in well. Sheree and Nick cared for Graham when he was first rescued. Graham is growing and becoming more adventurous each day. He is rather keen on following Fred (2yr old Wallaroo) around and tries to mimic



Graham

what Fred is doing. While Fred is very gentle with him, all he has to do is give Graham the eye and Graham comes running back to his mum for security. It's nice to see the little ones interacting with the older ones.

We picked up Tekla (Eastern Grey) on 19th September. Karin her initial carer looked after her until she was ready to be relocated, such a character and very pushy at mealtimes. She is growing and becoming very confident with the help of her new friend Juliette.

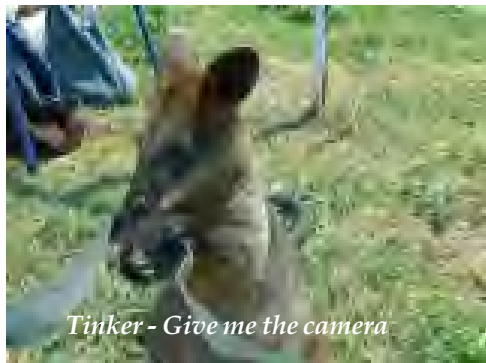
On the October long weekend, a female wallaroo (named Correa) was found caught in a cattle grid on the road to Emmaville. She was dehydrated and very stressed after her ordeal. Kelly Stumbles (Glen Innes Macropod Coordinator) called us on Sunday 30th September and we arranged to meet her at Guyra Monday 1 October. Correa was 3.75kg when she was rescued and initially reluctant to drink. With



Correa

a bit of gentle persuasion she is beginning to come around. She is now taking the teat willingly and is growing in confidence and even giving Graham and Tinker a hard time.

Juliette (Eastern Grey) and Tinker (Swamp Wallaby) are the latest additions to *Hanslie*. Tinker arrived on Saturday 6th October and Juliette on Sunday 7th October. After some adjustment to the

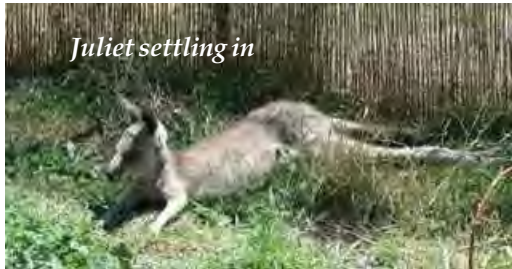


Tinker - Give me the camera

new environment and carers, both have relaxed and settled in well. They are sorting out the pecking order and now, after 2 weeks, are at ease with the rest of the mob.

Graham and Tinker have discovered the kitchen table as a place to play and chase each other. You'll be pleased to know that we are discouraging this sort of behaviour during meal times!

The older wallaroos, Fred and Saffron are doing well and return for a treat every few days. Although, Fred has made friends with a rather large male



wallaroo and two beautiful females, so he's busy being a wild boy! Saffron comes and goes and has joined up with the two females that have been around since she was a young joey. It is certainly a relief to know that the locals have accepted them into the mob.

On Sunday, the Hanslie house paddock enclosure was busy with all macropods out. Juliette, Tinker, Correa, Tekla and Graham were out and about checking the boundaries and enjoying the new grass that is just emerging after some recent rains. Saffron and Ginger also joined in but Fred was nowhere to be seen. Over in the next paddock with his new found friends no doubt!

Exciting news about Ginger (Red



Necked Wallaby).

Ginger now has a joey in pouch thanks to Henri, who no sooner had mated with her, then disappeared into the bush. Last week, however, Ginger arrived at the

front gate to the house paddock with Henri in tow. He responded to his name but was not keen to return inside the yard and so took off down towards the creek. It was great to see him return (even if briefly) as we hadn't seen 'hide nor hair' of him for several months. Nice to know that he is safe and that Ginger still has her partner. He has grown into a beautiful male and is looking very healthy, large and strong.



Mating dance of the Red-bellied Black snake

by Richard Biffin

With spring has come the awakening of many reptile species of the New



England bioregion. In particular, snakes are out looking for mates and food. I recently witnessed the mating dance of the red-bellied black snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*) in the clearing behind my cottage in the eastern fall. At first glance, it appeared that 2 males were in combat over territory and breeding females. However, after watching for 20 minutes, I realised that they were engaged in a dance of love and procreation. It was indeed a privilege to witness such an event.

Two Greys

by Dr Mahri Koch PhD, Bsc Hons,
Assoc Dip business

After some years away from wildlife caring, I am once again exploring the diversity of personalities within Eastern Grey kangaroo joeys coming into rehabilitation with the arrival of 2 joeys – each from opposite ends of the New England Tablelands. Both had been with their primary carers for 2 weeks. Both are polar opposites in their ability to deal with stress.

Frenchie arrived first. She is a playful yet calm emerging joey – basically a text book case to care for. She is keen to feed, toilets easily, loves grazing from her pouch, and enjoys a frolic in the morning sun between the first two feeds of the day. She hangs quietly in the late afternoon shade observing the wildlife sounds around her.

Buckley took up residence at Glen Elgin the day after Frenchie's arrival. He is a male of similar age and while also playful, he has high stress levels. The cause of his needing rescue and care is obscure and must have been highly stressful for him at that time. His way of dealing with the loss of his maternal pouch has been to suck on his penis when not being fed. This behaviour causes ulceration of the penis. My first attempt to calm him involved attaching a blind teat to the inside of his pouch which distracted him for a short while only. In order to prevent him causing permanent damage to himself, I then began encasing the lower half of his body (from below his "armpits") in a bag drawn up comfortably tight to prevent him from getting his head in.



This has generally worked except for the odd occasion when I must not have drawn the bag in close enough, and I have found him a while later with his entire body inside the bag! This situation sounds almost comical, however separating Buckley from his penis has only caused him further stress resulting in him grinding his teeth.



Six days after receiving the joeys I noticed blood in Buckley's faeces. An immediate trip to our local veterinarian – and faecal testing – confirmed he had *Coccidia* infection, a protozoan parasitic infection that occurs naturally in wild populations where joeys build immunity through exposure to the parasite via their mothers. Commonly, it takes 21-28 days



after coming into care for the parasite to multiply to sufficiently high numbers for symptoms to become evident. This population explosion is nurtured by

elevated stress levels in the joey at the time of loss of its mother.

Treatment with Baycox was given immediately to both joeys, and Scourban to counter the diahorrea. I also administered probiotics to assist in re-establishing balanced gut flora after 5 days on Scourban. Vitrate was offered between meals each day to replace electrolytes. It was an interesting couple of weeks finding the correct balance of nutrition and supplements while their bodies healed from the *Coccidiosis*. I am grateful for the wonderful vet we have here.

What now remains to be seen is whether Buckley's stress levels will continue to be high – and further suppress his immune system thus leaving him open to all types of illness and infection. Frenchie has bounced back literally and is regaining lost weight. Buckley is slow to respond. Weight gain is happening, however at a much slower pace than his female companion.

The photo above

In the tray in front of them is a clod of *Poa siberiana* grass upturned for them to reach the dirt on the roots and other dry matter. Beside that is some green *Poa* and *Microlina* grass for them to munch on. These joeys – like all others – love eating dirt.

Who's eating the green stuff?

Contributed by Philip Machin

Many people, particularly landowners and farmers grumble about kangaroos and how they are eating all the green stuff. Views and opinions are formed over the generations and myth becomes fact. So, it may be a surprise to learn that



a mob of 30 kangaroos nibble away the equivalent of less than a single heifer and the impact on the ground is very much less than stock animals. Some people see hundreds of kangaroos when there are only 30 or 40. In some areas kangaroos have been largely eradicated. Most family mobs seem to average around 25-30, but sometimes two or more mobs come together and form a larger group before dispersing again. Dry Sheep Equivalent (DSE) can be used to compare the grazing pressure of stock and other animals. In general terms a single kangaroo eats a third

of a 'dry sheep. Cattle on the other hand can have a DSE of around 12 Jersey milking cows have a factor of 22 or more. Horses have a DSE of perhaps 10 or more and seem to eat 24 hours a day There are many factors impacting DSE such as animal age, breed, growth rate, lactating, pregnant, topography, nutritional value, biomass and so on. Importantly kangaroos are not contained and range over large areas. Stock animals on the other hand are trapped in paddocks and eat down to ground level and beyond. Look at agistment paddocks for horses or where cattle and sheep have been introduced and see the

Who's eating the green stuff?
| Braidwood Times <http://www.braidwoodtimes.com.au/story/222453/whos-eating-the-green-...> But it gets better.

Kangaroos are soft-footed and do not impact the ground in the same way as heavier hoofed animals that compact the ground. Skippy is choosy about the native grasses they eat. Kangaroos do not



graze down to ground level, thereby encouraging growth rather than destroying the pasture. Some scientists suggest mixed grazing with kangaroos can be beneficial and actually increase farm output. Convinced? If not, then think about the true impact of your local mob of kangaroos. Work on fact and not fiction. See a mob of kangaroos as the equivalent of a single, free-ranging heifer, drifting between your land and that of your neighbours - because this is what they equate to. And it doesn't seem right to kill off kangaroos just because we 'think they are the culprits in eating all the grass.

Fundraising Report; November 2012

Raffle 2/12 Metal frog sculpture made and donated by Graham Brae .

Tickets \$1 , drawn December 2012 (tickets ring 1800 008 290)

Stall at Armidales Outdoor Expo , Bric a brac and donated item welcome.

Site ; Armidale showground east end horse stalls .

**Date ' Saturday 10th
November 8am - 6pm?**

Your help would be valued even for a couple of hours. Call or email Julia 6775 3767 or Colin 0438013500 and president@ntwc.org.au

Weird Kangaroo Sex: Three Vaginas and Always Pregnant

by **Audrey Ference**

Female kangaroo biology is bananas. The actual sex is the least interesting part! Lady roos, or does, have a tripartite vaginal canal that meets at the opening, with separate side tubes for the sperm to go up and a central tube for the baby kangaroo to go down. Here's a visual, if you're having trouble making sense of all of it.

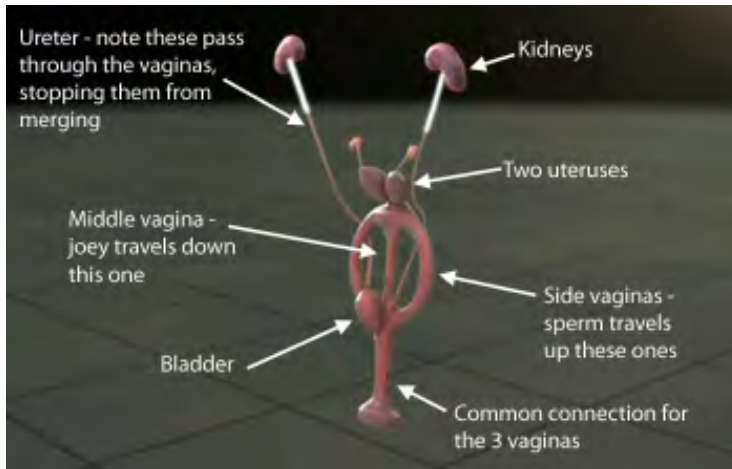
Of course, most famously, they also have the pouch. The pouch is like an external auxiliary uterus, in addition to the two interior uteruses. Kangaroos do not mess around when it comes to female reproductive organs. So here's how it works. When the doe is feeling ready for sex, she'll give off a scent to the bucks. Kangaroos live in groups, called mobs, that have complex social structures that differ by species. So okay, when a lady is feeling it, one of the guys follows her around, stroking her tail and smelling her pee, until it's go time. Sex for a kangaroo lasts 10 to 15 minutes.

Sperm goes up a side tube to meet an egg hanging out in one uterus. That fertilized embryo will grow for about 33 days, pop out, blind and hairless, and find its way into the pouch. It nurses there, on one of mom's four nipples, while mom goes out and gets knocked up again. This embryo either develops or not, depending on whether the mom kangaroo wants it to. She can just keep it there until she needs it.

Once the first joey is starting to go out of the pouch and explore around, its sibling pops out and crawls into the pouch to start developing, and mom can get knocked up again. Kangaroos can have up to three joeys going at once. It's basically like having one of those Park Slope triple

world.

Note that the ureters, which carry urine from the kidneys to the bladder, pass through the gaps between the three tubes. In placental mammals, like us, the ureters develop in a different way, and don't go through the reproductive system.



As we develop, the precursors to the reproductive tubes eventually fuse into a single vagina. In marsupials, this can't happen.

The programme also suggested that this might explain why marsupial embryos are born at such a premature stage of

development. A kangaroo's joey is about the size of a jellybean when it leaves the vagina, and it must endure an arduous crawl into the pouch. It's possible that with such a narrow tube to go down, it couldn't get any bigger before its birth.

decker strollers, but on the inside. She can make different milk for each joey depending on how many calories it currently needs. She can even determine the sex of the babies! Kangaroos are level eleven fertility mages, in control of every aspect of baby-having at all times. An heir and a spare doesn't even begin to describe it.

With its complicated reproductive set-up, a female kangaroo can be perpetually pregnant. While one joey is developing inside the pouch, another embryo is held in reserve in a uterus, waiting for its sibling to grow up and leave. Indeed, a mother kangaroo can nourish three separate youngsters at a time – an older joey that has left the pouch, a young one developing inside it, and an embryo still waiting to be born.

This set-up is shared by all marsupials – the group of mammals that raise their young in pouches. Koalas, wombats and Tasmanian devils all share the three-vagina structure. The side ones carry sperm to the two uteruses (and males marsupials often have two-pronged penises), while the middle vagina sends the joey down to the outside

Horrific wildlife shooting in NSW National Parks

By Bill Brown

During the recent school holidays a horrified family were confronted by a group of hunters driving into a camping ground in a south east National Park randomly shooting kangaroos. In front of the distressed family camped in the remote but popular National Park they shot a number of kangaroos and loaded

some onto a vehicle before driving off, leaving dead and maimed animals behind.

One of the campers photographed one of the vehicles and contacted the NPWS office.

The investigating NPWS Ranger was required to euthanase one of the maimed animals left behind by the shooters.

The incident is being investigated.

The shooting occurred as the NSW Parliament was introducing a controversial Bill allowing hunting in National Parks.

Since the media coverage that has followed the new Bill there have been a number of illegal shooting incidents in National Parks, leading to speculation that hunters are under the impression that it is now 'open season' in National Parks.

It's understood that the 'Firearms Prohibited' sign at the entrance to the

campground had been run over and smashed, but all other signs were intact.

However, while the Bill has been passed it has yet to be enacted, and when it is enacted hunters will be required to apply for a specific licence and adhere to regulations overseen by

Game Council NSW.

Two people found earlier this week bogged in the South East Forests

the opening up of National Parks to hunting is part of a deal by the O'Farrell government to get Shooters and Fishers Party support for selling off the state's electricity generators.

National Park are being investigated regarding: carrying a firearm in a national park; driving off formal tracks in a national park; and damaging vegetation in a National Park.

There have been reports of wombats being shot in National Parks and stories of shooters targeting kangaroos and wallabies on remote properties adjoining National Parks.

The Public Service Association of NSW is compiling an audit of incidents from rangers and park staff across the state.

"Reports of an alleged kangaroo shooting in a national park in the state's South East is consistent with

what we're hearing from our rangers about incidents where shooters are entering our parks under the impression they are now open for hunting," said Geo



Papas from the PSA.

"We are concerned members of the public are jumping the gun and are creating a dangerous situation for rangers, other park users and wildlife.

"The State Government should come clean about whether there has been a spate of illegal shooting taking place in our national parks and what the Minister will do to stop it."

The ABC has submitted a number of questions to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and will update this story when the responses are available.

The PSA has directed its members not to assist with any activity involved with establishing recreational hunting in National Parks.

PSA General Secretary, John Cahill, said "Our park rangers should not have to work in fear for their own safety.

"Our members have expressed serious concerns about the danger to themselves and the community when shooting is allowed in bushland popular with walkers and picnickers."

Game Council NSW Chairman John Mumford said that the Council, which will be responsible for overseeing hunting in National Parks, has already established a successful system for hunting in State Forests.

"We have proven that this system works over six years, with strict licensing and accreditation, the Written Permission system, and a State-wide field network of Game Managers," said Mr Mumford.

Greens MLC David Shoebridge says that in answers provided to the Greens in Parliament, Game Council NSW confirmed that it employs only 4.2 full time equivalent staff to police the hunting in State Forests across the state and they will now have to police National Parks as well.



He claims that Game Council policing of hunting in forests and parks is clearly inadequate.

There has been widespread criticism that the opening up of National Parks to hunting is part of a deal by the O'Farrell government to get Shooters and Fishers Party support for selling off the state's electricity generators.

baby, took him home and started feeding him on cows milk. The next day the lady rang NTWC for Tony to collect. Lucky she was using an eye dropper so little milk got into his system. Samuel is 844g and is the smallest I have cared for. He is very bright and curious. I have to keep my eye on him as he gets out of his pouch and walks around. One morning I heard a cry for help and when I jumped up out of bed, he had walked past Ruby Roo (very dangerous as Ruby likes her space), and bolted behind the bed. I couldn't believe my eyes.. such a tiny animal walking around the room. Now he sleeps next to me. Samuel has put on weight, has firm faeces, drinks the milk with enthusiasm and loves to be carried around in a home made pouch that hangs in front of me.

This from Colin Wood Chairman NTWC. Rebecca is one of the most loving carers we have and a credit to this organisation. Its obvious she carers deeply for the animals she looks after.



Who said blacks & browns cohabit



"Boris" the Lace Monitor is doing well in his new home in Q/land.

Community partnership Account.

Three years ago The Community Mutual Credit Union began a Community programme designed to help non-profit organisations

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!

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..

The Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers has benefited from this over the last three years to the tune of \$1500. Each of our members can apply to the Community Mutual and help our cause.

The Australian / National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference , Townsville 2012.

by Julia Rose

This is the fifth (out of total of 8) wildlife conferences I have attended and they are getting bigger and better each time. The next one is to be held in Hobart in May 2014 so put in your diaries now.

We managed to fit in the last 2 days of this 5 day conference and then travelled the Savannah Way for a holiday out to Lawn Hill but that's another story.

Topics covered were all very relevant to our volunteer work . Dr Anne Fowler featured several times again and even filled in when a gap happened. Her talks were as usual so vital to our and the animals health. Macropods featured in many presentations and one which we need to look into is the treatment of nerves and tendon damaged legs in wild roos after fence entanglement. Yes they can be treated and yes they do get released.

Other topics ; Cyclones, fires and flood , emergencies and how we can help.

Necrotising syndrome in possums is something we have seen locally and probably don't recognise if just a paw has been lost.

Probably the most exciting paper for me was given by Dr Adam Polkinghorne who is doing research on the Chlamydia in Koalas and working towards a

vaccine. I offered on our behalf to assist him by collecting swabs from sick local koalas to identify which strain is present here. It could well be Chlamydia

pneumoniae which is also present in domestic stock and humans. I **have since invited Wires Uralla to join us to collect samples.**

Wombats, also had a slot thanks to Linda Dennis who gave an overview of populations .Our very

own Suzie and Chilli

featured in the photos so I felt very proud. There are always lots of goodies in the conference bags , secetures and gloves donated by Bunnings, to assist us collect browsling material. The notes were heavy for those of us on airline travel so I managed to connect our second copy with a wildlife carer I met along our trip.To get a copy of the proceedings on line visit awrc.org.au website. These may in the future be available on CD as an alternative if my suggestion is taken up.

Basically if you are involved with wildlife this is something you must go to.!!

Besides this is where the state NSW wildlife Council was begun as was Queensland's wildlife rehabilitation Council and the victorian Council. All now are working towards a Australian wildlife Council.




**Meeting date
General Meeting
18th Nov 2012
Tree Group Mann
St Armidale
1.30 PM
Come along and
support your group**

Stall at Armidales Outdoor Expo ,

Bric a brac and donated items welcome. Site ~ Armidale showground east end horse stalls .

Date ' Saturday 10th November
8am - 6pm?

Your help would be valued even for a couple of hours. Call or email Julia 6775 3767 or Colin 0438013500 president@ntwc.org.au

 *Sponsored Free call*

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


new england **mutual**

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

