



Rescue
Rehabilitate
Release



**Newsletter of The Northern Tablelands
 Wildlife Carers Issue No 93 May 2012
 Phone - 1800-008290 www.ntwc.org.au**

Glen Innes Area Update

By Kelly Stumbles – Glen Innes Area Co-ordinator

It's been rather quiet of the



Python Released

Glen Innes front with a steady stream of varying calls coming in. At the moment I've had a number of calls about echidnas in yards which are easily sorted out by giving advice. They're obviously on the move around here at the moment usually they're being bailed up by dogs or just minding their own business. Most people around here don't realise that we have a strong population of echidnas in town, whenever they see one they think it shouldn't be there so you usually have to explain to the that it's OK and it

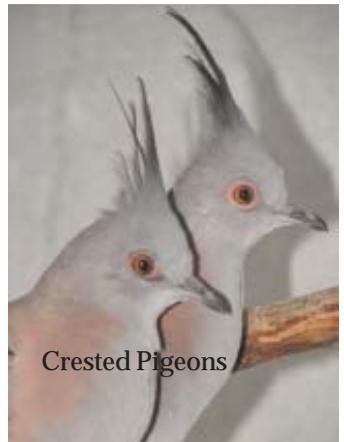
knows where it's going. I still have my 2 echidna puggles in care who are doing extremely well, they've grown well and look like echidnas now all covered in spikes. Our macropod calls are well down at the moment which is a good thing, it would be nice if it stayed this way, it must be the good season we've had

that's kept them away from the roads.

Various birds have come and gone, latest releases were a Magpie who's wing was clipped my a well-meaning member of the public and a cute pair of Crested pigeons. A couple of ducks have come into care, a Wood Duck which died and a late Pacific Black Duckling which is growing quickly. I've still had the odd King Parrot and Galah coming in very weak and thin, usually dying shortly after; but not

as many as earlier on in spring & summer. Have also, had a number of birds with bad breaks to their wings, which have had to be euthanased. & a beautiful Barking Owl which was hit by a car was successfully released after a stay in care, it's not often these come into care.

As for the reptiles in our area they've been extremely quiet the season. Only a small number of lizards and turtles have come in, which is down on most years. The snakes too have been keeping to themselves. I've had



Crested Pigeons

Contacts for Northern Tableland Wildlife Carers (NTWC)

- ✦ Chairman - Colin Wood 0438013500
 - ✦ Vice Chairman - Tony Karasulas 6772 7469
 - ✦ Secretary - Debbie MacLean 67750202
 - ✦ Minutes Secretary: Wendy Beresford 67753747
 - ✦ Treasurer - Julia Rose - 1800-008290
 - ✦ Training Officer - Julie-Anne Willis 6733 5384
 - ✦ Wombaroo - Kelly Stumbles 67321838
 - ✦ Publicity - Colin Wood - 67783329
 - ✦ NWC Rep - Jackie Maisey. Ph 0407 040 003
 - ✦ Newsletter - Colin Wood 67783329
 - ✦ Armidale - Julia Rose 1800-008290
 - ✦ Wendy Beresford 6775-3747
 - ✦ Tamworth - 6762-1232
 - ✦ Tenterfield - Pam Brice - 6736-2462
 - ✦ Glen Innes ` Kelly Stumbles 67321838
 - ✦ Snake Co-ord - Richard Biffin - 6772-3657
- 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.

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

 *Sponsored Free call*


new england **mutual**

Page 1- Glen Innes area update.

Page 4-5 - A Quoll's story

Page -6 A

CAUTIONARY

TALE (did we kill off the Tasmanian Tiger)

Page 6- RAMPANT WEEDS CAUSE WOMBAT LIVER FAILURE

Page 7 Birth months for reptiles.

Page 8.- A poem by Lynda Staker "The Joey"

Page 11. A

Cockatoo's Life.

**The Art
Garden
Ornament
was won by
Orange ticket
C11**



basically no calls up until Easter Thursday when they all started to come to life it seems. First I had to go to Stannum, 60km away, to rescue a lady from Tiger Snake in her laundry which had been there all day. I left at 6pm and returned home at 8pm, which made for a long day as I'd been at work all day before hand. Then over Easter I had to rescue



Magpie recently released, sunning itself

a Carpet Python which I believe was brought to town on a vehicle as it's too cold here for them to



Puggles

live, it was happily released a couple of days later. Then on the 22nd April I had a call for another Tiger Snake. I got there and caught it only to find there was another curled up right behind it. I was put the first one in my bag when

the people yelled out "There's another one!" So in the bag it went too. After releasing those two, I got another call from the same lady a couple of hours later to say she had another one, so out I went again. After a search of the garden where it was seen we found it just as I was about to leave, number 3 was soon in the



Bat girl

bag as well. 3 from the same house in one day, that's a first for me and I've been snake handling since 1998. She was one very relieved lady.



Grippa

Julie & Gary are down to just 4 Joeys which I'm sure is a welcome reprieve from the large number they normally have in care, a few have been released in the last month. They also still have 2 Brushtail Possum joeys & the wombat.

As for me, a Ringtail Possum I had in care just recently went to Featherdale Wildlife Park as she couldn't be released so hopefully she'll have a good life either there or at another facility. I've still got the echidnas, as mentioned about along with an injured Bluetongue Lizard, an Eastern Rosella, the Pacific Black Duckling and a very cheeky Brushtail Possum joey called 'Grippa'. I'm enjoying the quiet time because no doubt it will get busy soon enough.

I'd like to say a big thankyou to Matt Pope at the Glen Innes Vet Hospital for all of his time and help with the quoll's recovery, it was greatly appreciated.



A Quoll's Story



1. Spotted-tailed Quoll – right back leg(5) – taken 5 days into care 28.8.11

2. Spotted-tailed Quoll – right back leg(13) – taken 1.9.11

3. Spotted-tailed Quoll – right back leg(24) – taken 9.9.11, slowly healing

4. Spotted-tailed Quoll – male(8) – taken 9.9.11 shows some of the missing fur patches on his back, plus his ail

5. Quoll – right back leg – taken 16.10.11 almost 2 months into care, day before his op to remove bone fragment

6. Quoll after op to have bone fragment removed – taken 17.10.11 day of operation

7. Quolly – enjoying the sun – taken 2.1.12 finally in the outside cage, also shows his tail

8. Quolly – taken 2.1.12 shows his lovely face & nature

9. Quoll's leg just before release – taken 9.3.12 day before release, shows how his leg has finally healed

10. Quoll's release – taken 10.3.12 just before he took off out of the cage back into the wild.

A CAUTIONARY TALE

(did we kill off the Tasmanian Tiger)

An international research team believes its study finding low genetic diversity in tasmanian tigers has



implications for other isolated species. The team combed the world's museums for thylacine specimens, testing 12 different Tasmanian tigers for genetic diversity. Scientists extracted DNA from bone, pelt and tissue samples, with some almost 160-years-old. They found significant parts of the thylacine's genomes were almost identical. Melbourne University's Dr Marilyn Renfree says the results confirmed their hunch. "The sequence identity was so similar in all of the animals. It tells us they were very, very limited." "Animals in island populations tend to have limited genetic diversity," she said. Experts are divided on whether the thylacine would have died out, had it not been hunted by early settlers who believed it was killing sheep. Kathryn Medlock from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery says scientific advancements are helping build a picture. "There is evidence that there was a disease that went through the thylacine population," she said. Tasmanian devil expert Dr Menna Jones, of the University of Tasmania, says low diversity could have also played a part. "It could mean that genetic diversity right across their range on mainland Australia, as well as Tasmania was very low." The

study has implications for other dwindling species such as koalas in southern Australia and island populations of rock wallabies. continued next column... Dr Renfree says Tasmania's island status means other animals and plants could be in danger. "If we disrupt their environment by knocking down forests or building a mine, climate change, any of those things will stress a population and the more stressed the population it is, the less chance it has of responding to that stress if its genetic diversity is very limited," Dr Renfree said. "The more limited the generic diversity, the more susceptible animals are to environmental change." The research has been published in an international science journal. The last Tasmanian tiger died in a Hobart zoo in 1936.

RAMPANT WEEDS CAUSE WOMBAT LIVER FAILURE

Researchers think they have worked out why



illness has been killing high numbers of southern hairy-nose wombats in the Murraylands in eastern South Australia. Brigitte Stevens from the Wombat Awareness Organisation has documented finding about 2,800 sick wombats in the region. "They are very skinny animals that are bald and can't walk," she said. Few have been caught because they scurry into their burrows. But despite that challenge, Dr Wayne Boardman and Dr Lucy Woolford of Adelaide University have done postmortem examinations on six wombats. "It's not just a skin disease, it's actually a liver disease," Dr

Boardman said. The researchers have concluded native grasses have disappeared under pressure from a range of potentially toxic plants, such as onion weed. "We've found that they've had severely scarred liver as a on sequence of eating these plants," Dr Boardman said. SA President Suzanne Medway is currently in SA investigating the plight of the wombats, meeting with conservation groups, wildlife rescuers, government officials and researchers. Urgent research is being conducted to find the cause of the skin disease.

the dam near the Tree Group in Mann St, where most of them should be safe from pederators.

In the same week Richard had the fortune experience of seeing the birth of many black snakes. He rescued them and made sure they were released in a safe place, not near the young Blue Tongues.



Birth month for Reptiles

March is a month for new life in reptiles as



Richard Biffin found out. I had a call from a man in Armidale. "There is a Blue Tongue lizard giving birth in my garage" I immediatley rand Richard, he quickly went to the address and found 16 young Blue Tongues still eating their birth sacs. Seeing as there were a few cats in this neighbourhood he quickly scooped them up and took them to safety to



Now you see him

A Leaf-Tail Lizard



Mum Blue Tongue & young



Now you Don;t

The Joey

by Lynda Staker

I saw the mangled bundle, as I came upon the hill,
A kangaroo, sleek and soft, and very, very still;
A smaller one was standing there, and looked me in the eye,
Then pity overtook me, and I couldn't drive on by.

As I reached the mother, I could see it was too late,
So I tried to grab the youngster, who took off at a rate,
Now what could I do, to save this little mite,
Who would not survive alone, and was running now in fright.

Leave the scene I thought, and drive just up the road,
I sat in silence for half an hour, and sure enough she showed;
She stood beside her mother, then I saw her slouch,
She was nuzzling at her Mum, looking for her pouch.

If I return she'll run again, so how can I save the 'roo,
I sat in bewilderment, as I pondered what to do.
Suddenly it dawned upon me, as I devised a plan,
If the joey wanted mother's pouch, I'll make it so she can!

I drove back to the mother, and the joey ran on cue,
I maneuvered the mother's body, so the pouch was in full view,
I made it so the joey could put her head right in,
Then drove back up the road, and began to settle in;

**Brendon Campbell and Emma Freebairn,
Chemist's in Otho Street Inverell have kindly
donated syringes, needles and hydration
fluids to our group, Northern Tablelands
Wildlife Carers**

**These, as we in the group know are
invaluable recourses and we are very
grateful for their support.**

Paul Bryant. J.P. Wildlife Carer.

It took another half an hour for the joey to reappear,
She hopped up to her mum, and I saw her head disappear.
She had her head right in the pouch, as I had hoped she would,
Now I had to get back to her, as quietly as I could,

I tip-toed silently up the road, and reached the sorry sight,
The baby's head was in the pouch, so I grabbed the little mite.
As darkness was the likely key, to calm the frightened 'roo,
I quickly pulled my T-shirt off, for her to jump into

It then hit me, as I ran back to my car,
What would I do with this little girl, now I had come this far?
My thoughts had been preoccupied in trying to catch the joey,
Now that I had accomplished this, my mind was in a flurry,

I settled the little bundle, all comfy on the seat,
I'll have to stop at the very next town, as she will need to eat,
My thoughts were now consumed, many questions in my mind,
Who will I contact, where shall I look, reality was left behind.

The dilemma consumed my every thought, my destination forgotten,
If I hadn't stopped to save her, I would have felt so rotten.
After an hour of driving blindly, realizing what I had done,
A town was soon upon me, my troubles had just begun,

I went from shop to shop to ask just what to do,
They looked at me in disbelief, because I'd saved a 'roo!
They stared at me as if to say, 'we don't want to know',
So many roos are killed each year, who cares about one doe?

I determined to find one person, who could help me in my plight;
I didn't care how long it took, I would search till night!
I rang the operator and asked for information,
Regarding wildlife care, was there an organisation?

So thrilled was I when I was given, the number of a few,

People who took in joeys, and would know just what to do.
I rang them with relief, and was thrilled to finally hear,
Yes we will take the joey, I began to shed a tear.

All my pent up frustration came pouring with relief,
As a friendly voice said she'd meet me, a little down the street.
She was there within minutes, a caring, loving soul,
Who took in these young orphans, and survival was her goal.

She gently unwrapped the joey, to check it was okay,
Then snuggled her into a home made pouch, as I explained my day.
She commended me on my insight, in catching the little mite,
And said that if I hadn't have cared, the joey would die that night.

It made me feel so happy, that I had saved the 'roo,
But was saddened that I had done, what others wouldn't do.
She said she had many others, I was elated, I confess,
And if I liked to ring her, to check on her progress.

After swapping our names and numbers, she waved and drove away,
I sat back in my vehicle, and reflected on my day,
How many other little joeys are left to die tonight,
Just because few little care of the kangaroo's sad plight.

It's only when faced with these events, we really have to think,
That everything out in the bush is not all rosy and pink,
Survival has been compromised, because of man's integration,
It's time we all did our bit for the symbol of our nation.

Lynda Staker

A Cockatoo's Life

For the first few weeks, he was confined to a cocky cage while his broken collar-bone healed.

It was reassuring to look out the kitchen window and see the cockatoo foraging in the bush, high in a medium-sized tree. Or in the evening to see him



sleeping on a soft-barked branch on the grapevine. I am surprised that he was not taken out by the Brown Goshawk couple who also live here – maybe because when he came back to roost we would interact, so the Goshawks thought he was part of my flock? Leaving the radio/light on inside, near his roost beside the back door, probably also helped deter these fowl-sized raptors (I wouldn't like to be a rabbit here – I regularly find a pile of rabbit fur). Fortunately, there are no neighbours with roaming cats, or dogs

That last night I saw him perched low in a wattle tree, as I drove down the driveway, I thought, 'You should be perched higher'.

Amongst the 3 piles of cockatoo feathers in the bush behind the house, I didn't find any of his bones, and no yellow crest feathers. I buried a small tough organ I found with feather-pile near fence, along with some of the blood-stained

feathers.

He didn't squawk very often. I believe that females are more demanding/squawky, because they are more dominant than males. The only words he uttered were: 'Beautiful Bird' (something I often said to him last thing. He also imitated the dogs barking next door.

I used an towel to chase him away from places I did not want him to go. He looked so comical as he waddled away at full speed.

Whenever, I'd come home in the evening after a day out, the cockatoo would be in his usual perch in the grapevine. I'd usually bring something home for him, such as wattle-galls or hard native fruits. For the first time in ages, I'd been buying raw beans (he extracted the seeds) and almonds still in their shells. Other treats included eucalypt branches and thick, chewy grass stems.

He left me an unexpected gift – about a week after he'd died, I noticed that my blue gardening hat, had holes where the eyelets had been – I'd left the hat near the back door, before I'd gone out. So now I have an extra special battered hat.

When I sprayed him on a hot day, he'd lift his wings, so that I can spray under them. I felt mean when the cockatoo tried to come inside – fortunately, he didn't realise that he could easily have bitten through the soft screen wire. I think that he enjoyed his three months of freedom.

**Thank you
so much to
kentuckytreenuursery.com
for donating 100's of
trees and shrubs to
us to sell at the
Uralla street stall
and our garage sale**

**Meeting dates &
times**

20th May

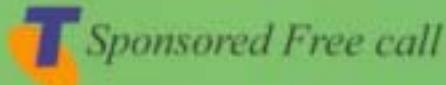
Committee meeting

10.30

**12 noon Fund Raising
meeting**

**1.30PM General
meeting**

**Support you group
and buy/sell raffle
tickets for this lovely
quilt.**



**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

