



# Information Pack

## *Dear Wildlife Friend*

Thank you for your enquiry about the Granite Belt Wildlife Carers. This information pack will assist you to understand the objectives of our organisation, and explain who we are and what we do. It may assist you to decide whether to join us as a carer member, and enjoy the satisfaction of releasing animals you have cared for back to the wild, or as a support member, knowing your extremely valuable contribution assists in the rehabilitation of wildlife in the care of others.

## *Who are we?*

Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Incorporated was established in 2007 and is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation that provides care for sick, orphaned or injured wildlife in an around the Granite Belt area.

## *What are our objectives?*

The objectives of the Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc. are to:

1. Provide a rescue service for sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife
2. Provide home caring locations for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife
3. Rehabilitate sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife into safe natural environments
4. Provide safe, supervised release sites for rehabilitated native wildlife
5. Increase public awareness and educate the community about native wildlife and their habitats
6. Encourage the principles of conservation for the preservation of native wildlife and their habitats
7. Provide a support network to vets, QPWS, other native wildlife organisations and within our own group and
8. Comply with all Government legislation pertaining to native wildlife.

## *What areas do we cover?*

The Granite Belt Wildlife Carers provide a rescue service to collect a sick, orphaned or injured wildlife in and around the following Granite Belt areas:

- **North:** Applethorpe, the Summit, Thulimbah, Cottonvale to Dalveen
- **South:** Glen Aplin, Severnlea, Eukey, Ballandean, Wyberba to Wallangarra
- **East:** Sugarloaf, Amosfield, Dalcouth to Liston
- **West:** Pozieres, Bapaume, Amiens, Canon Creek, Broadwater, to Greenlands

Depending on the animal and the situation, the Granite Belt Wildlife Carers can provide advice, and a limited rescue service to sick, orphaned or injured wildlife in and around the following outer areas:

- **North:** Allora, Warwick, Killarney
- **South:** to the NSW border
- **East:** to Liston
- **West:** to Texas

### *What rules to we operate under?*

- **Legislation:** The legislation that covers the protection of wildlife in Queensland is the *Nature Conservation Act 1982* (the Act).
- **DERM:** The Department of Environment and Resource Management is the regulatory authority that enforces the act.
- **Code of Practice:** All carers members of any wildlife caring group agree to operate under a Code of Practice supplied by DERM.
- **Permit:** All carer members of any wildlife caring group must operate under a Rehabilitation Permit issued by DERM. The Granite Belt Wildlife Carer's permit is issued in our president's name who takes full responsibility for any member in our group operating under that permit.
- **RSPCA:** In Queensland, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation activities are coordinated by the RSPCA who also run a Wildlife Hero program open to anyone who rescues wildlife.
- **QWRC:** In Queensland, further advice and assistance is provided by the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council who is the peak representative body for wildlife rehabilitation in Queensland and provides a collective voice for members.
- **Model Rules:** As an incorporated body, the Granite Belt Wildlife Carers also operate under our own set of model rules, which provide the committee and membership with operating guidelines.

### *What animals do we care for?*

The animals in our area that we either care for, or provide advice about include:

- **Macropods:**
  - Kangaroos (eastern grey)
  - Wallabies (swamp, red-neck, pretty face, black stripe)
  - Wallaroos
  - Bettongs
- **Common Marsupials:** Possums (brush-tailed and ring-tailed), Gliders (greater, feather-tail), Koalas
- **Rarer Marsupials:** Echidnas, Playtpus, Quolls, Phascogales, Antechinus, Wombat
- **Birds:** a wide range of small, medium and large birds, at all stages of life including chicks, fledglings and adults
- **Bats:**
  - Megabats (flying foxes)
  - Microbats (insectivorous bats)
- **Amphibians:** Frogs
- **Reptiles:** Turtles, Snakes, Lizards, Geckoes

### *How do we receive our animals?*

Most of the animal referrals come through to us directly from the public, the RSPCA or our local vets. The calls are received and managed by volunteers who man our wildlife rescue phone on a roster basis. Depending on the animal and the circumstances, the wildlife phone volunteer instructs the caller to take the animal to either Stanthorpe Vet Care Services, or an appropriate animal group coordinator (bird coordinator, macropod coordinator, etc). If the animal can be placed in care, the animal group coordinator will arrange the placement of the animal with an appropriate carer and will provide advice and back up support as necessary. A full list of contacts and coordinators will be provided to you should you proceed with membership.

### *How can you care for wildlife?*

There are several factors we take into account before we will vote someone through as a carer member:

- **Training:** we will look at what training you've done or are prepared to do
- **Experience:** we will look at what experience you've already got caring for wildlife
- **Facilities:** we will look at what facilities you have eg cages, aviaries, pens, fenced yard, etc
- **Children:** we will consider the ages of any children in the household, generally we do not place wildlife in households with children under 10 yrs
- **Pets:** we will consider what pets are in the household, generally we do not place wildlife in households with uncontrolled dogs and cats
- **Members of other groups:** we will ask you whether you are already a carer member for another group, we only encourage carer membership with one group of choice, and support membership with others
- **Other permits:** we will ask you if you hold other permits, eg permit to keep wildlife as this may conflict with our key objective to rehabilitate and release wildlife

### *What support will you receive?*

As a carer member with the Granite Belt Wildlife Carers, you will receive the following support:

- **Training:** whilst we are a relatively small group, we can offer one on one training and small workshop training, however we generally rely on undertaking training offered by other groups in SE Qld
- **Mentoring:** we will buddy you up with an experienced carer member who will be able to offer advice and support whenever you need it
- **Networking:** we will provide you with the opportunity to liaise with carer members in other groups to share experiences and gain valuable advice
- **Manuals:** we will provide you with access to reference manuals that will serve as a back up to practical training

### *What else do we do?*

Other activities that the Granite Belt Wildlife Carers is involved with include:

- **Meetings:** our group meets six times a year, generally on the second Sunday of every second month, from 10am – 12pm with a morning tea/lunch throughout (the AGM is held at the February meeting).
- **Education:** regularly our members are called up on to give talks to school groups or other community groups about wildlife in care, and in this area in general.
- **Fundraising - events:** being a not-for-profit organisation we rely heavily on fundraising events to raise money to purchase food and equipment for wildlife in care. We are one of the few wildlife caring groups that can fully subsidise the food our carers need for their animals. Regular fundraising events we are involved in include:
  - **Markets:** we hold two Monster Markets (car boot sales) at the Broadwater CWA hall in March and September each year
  - **Show:** we have a stall at the Stanthorpe Show (Jan/Feb) each year
  - **Gardenfest:** we have a stall at Gardenfest (Oct) each year
  - **Catering:** we provide a catering service to businesses or other community groups
  - **Plant drive:** every two years we run a native plant drive
- **Fundraising – other:** Other ways we raise much needed funds are through:
  - **Donations:** we have donation boxes at key businesses throughout Stanthorpe who support our cause

- **Community saver:** Open a community saver account with the Stanthorpe branch of the Heritage Building Society and nominate our group as the grant recipient (#2022) and we receive a grant from Heritage on a quarterly basis
- **Grants:** We regularly seek funding through grant funding opportunities as they arise
- **Goods:** we also rely heavily on members of the public and group to use their skills to make:
  - Pouches of various sizes for joeys
  - Items for sale at our stalls
  - Possum, bird and bat boxes

### *What will it cost?*

The types of membership and their fees are as follows:

- **Ordinary Member (Carer Member):** \$10.00 pa (single), \$15.00 pa (couple/family)
- **Associate Member ( Support Member):** \$10.00 pa (single), \$15.00 pa (couple/family)
- **Junior Member (<18yrs):** \$5.00 (must be accompanied by a full adult membership)
- **Honorary Member:** \$0.00 (generally reserved for long term members who make a significant contribution or represent a significant body)

Note: our membership year is a calendar year (1 Jan – 31 Dec)

### *Where to from here?*

If you decide to proceed with your membership, you need to decide whether you want to join as a carer member or a support member. Some people join as support members first, and then proceed to carer member as their confidence and experience increases.

When our membership coordinator receives your application, she will table it at the next meeting to be voted on. If you are not at that meeting to introduce yourself and let us know what you can do, ensure you have provided enough background information about what you can do or what you are prepared to do so that we can make an informed decision. You will be advised of the outcome and will receive your membership card and further introductory information in due course.

Attached to this information pack is a membership application form for you to complete and forward to our membership coordinator for processing.

### *Where do you find more information?*

If you require further information please contact one of the following:

#### Wildlife Coordinators:

- Macropods: Betty Balch – 0437 897 100
- Possum/Gliders: Sally Rowen – 4681 0788 a/h
- Birds: Janice Farrugia – 0412 236 654
- Snakes: Steve Vincent – 0447 833 178
- All other animals: Betty Balch – 0437 897 100

#### 2011 Committee Members:

- President: Betty Balch – 0437 897 100
- Vice-president: Ruth Bott – 4683 3319 a/h
- Secretary: Paula Boatfield – 4683 3119
- Treasurer: Vicki Cavanagh – 4681 0575

Alternatively, you might like to check out our website at: [www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/gbwc](http://www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/gbwc)

