



Wild about Wildlife!

Issue 2 : Oct - Dec 2007

Highlights

- Kooky about kookaburras
- Mother's Club
- Donations
- Animals in care, rescues and releases

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GBWCI Committee

President: Betty Balch
Ph: 46 833 271

Secretary: Paula Boatfield
Ph: 46 833 119

Vice President Ruth Bott
Ph: 46 833 319

Treasurer: Carmen Nevin
Ph: 46 836 351

When Nature gives us a Helping Hand!

There are some times when nature gives our carers a helping hand. For example, parent birds that have lost their babies from high nests in trees will still feed and care for them, if the babies are put in a place where the parents can find them. But this story has a difference that takes the cake.

Last October, after a severe storm, one of our carers, Ruth Bott, took a call to rescue a baby kookaburra from Amosfield. She picked up the baby bird, housed him in his own cage, and started feeding him a mixture of beetles, moths, mince and insectivore powder. He fed well right from the start and all we had to wait for over the next few weeks, were those feathers to grow to enable a successful release.

Ten days later, after another wild storm, another carer, Karen Goodman brought in another washed out young, very vocal kookaburra to be cared for with "Chuckles". Together, each morning at 4:30 they greeted the new day with a series of practice

kooka choruses. Amazingly, these "trills" were saying "I'm starving mum. Please feed me, NOW!!!" and as Ruth was watching, in flew the wild kookaburras with a variety of beetles, moths, lizards, and other tasty morsels from the bush. These were poked through the cage bars for the starving inmates.



This became a daily ritual for Ruth to observe over the next few weeks. The amount of food Ruth

needed to offer was able to be reduced, because she could rely on the wild kookaburras to supplement the diet of the babies with their own natural food.

One morning, Andy-burra did a Houdini act, releasing herself to join her wild family in the nearby bush. Ruth observed her for several days to ensure she was being fed sufficiently by her surrogate family.

Eventually came the end of January and Chuckles, a baby no longer, was ready to be released. He had kept up his conversations with his wild relatives several times daily and knew they weren't far away. He practised flying in the netted chook pen and was very capable of organising his flights.

So the day finally came. Chuckles was placed on the lower limbs of the wattle tree and off he went, straight to the gum tree and the wild kookaburras who welcomed him with open arms (sorry)...wings. It was the best outcome a carer could wish for.

Mother's Club Sustains the Species

The following is an article from the Courier Mail dated Wed, 29th August, 2007.

Like people, kangaroos have friends. That's what 24 yr old Alecia Carter found out in her 6-month study of the female eastern grey kangaroo.

Miss Carter, a university of Qld student is a finalist in the State Government's Smart Women awards. She said she studied female eastern grey kangaroos because most studies focused on males.

"I think females are underrated in the literature," she said. "They have to put in all the effort in the raising of the young."

Miss Carter said eastern grey kangaroos had a "promiscuous mating system", with females raising babies without help from males.

Miss Carter received \$19,000 from national Geographic for her study. She said researching kangaroos' social habits was beneficial for the environment.

"Females that are grazing with close associates are able to graze longer because they're so used to the behaviour of their friends," she said. "The more she grazes, the more milk she pro-

duces, the healthier the babies and the more babies she can produce."



Did you know.....?

Criteria for deciding when an animal is ready for release

The following criteria is from "Care of Australian Wildlife" by Erna Walraven:

- Has permission for release been given by the relevant authority?
- Can the animal feed itself?
- Does the animal know and recognize its natural food?
- Can it catch live food, if that is what it does in the wild?
- Has it been acclimatized to outside temperatures?
- Can it fly, run, climb, swim or whatever it needs to do to survive in the wild?
- Does it have knowledge of its predators?
- Had it had experience with others of its own species?
- Does the animal object to human handling?

The following criteria is from Lee Curtis, submitted for a Land for Wildlife article, 2008:

- Does the release site feature species' habitat?
- Is there enough food available on the land for the animal to survive?
- Is it as close as possible to the original capture site?
- Is regular control of feral animals (cats, dogs, pigs, goats, etc.) carried out?
- The property is not saturated with similar species?

If the answer is a wholehearted 'yes' to all of these questions, the animal is ready for release.



Splat!!! "I know there's a face around here somewhere!"

Meet Toby, the brush-tailed possum being raised by carers Pam and Gary.

Donations

Donations were gratefully accepted this quarter from :

- Neville Adams, who donated \$50 to GBWC Inc when a possum was rescued from his premises.
- GBWC Inc members who contribute donations as part of their membership
- Elisabeth from the Blue Care Units in Day St, who called us twice to rescue an elusive magpie who seemed injured.
- Rita Collins, who donated 2 paintings which we will use in raffles to raise some much needed funds.



A message from our President

We have just about come to the end of our first year of activities as an incorporated body and I would like to take the time to sincerely thank those of you in our current membership who have committed time and energy to making this group work.

Many of us would like to have the time to do more, but if each of us can do what we can, then the tasks won't all fall on a few.

I am looking forward to a successful stand at the Show, and pass on my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed.

I have had another visit to the Koala Hospital at Moggill, and Ranger Pete there needs our help and that of our community. He is trying to establish a DNA bank for the Koalas in Qld, and as they are not willing to give samples freely, we have to try to get them from dead stock.

So, if you happen across a dead Koala that isn't too stinky, bag it, tag it, and (if you are really dedicated) put it in the freezer, or get it to me or to Jo at Girraween NP, and we will organise for it to go to Pete. Alternatively, if the body is a bit on the decomposing side, an ear would be very helpful (in a bag, of course).

This goes for Quolls also. Without some research being done, these precious animals are facing a pretty unsteady future.

Finally, in Victoria at present there are some low lives trying to purchase reptiles and birds for the pet trade.

Be very aware! Should any of our members be contacted by these creatures, contact the rangers, the police or myself. If it is possible to get some details (eg licence plate of car, or contact phone number) do so, but be careful not to put yourself at risk.

Animals currently in care as at 31 December 2007:

- 10 eastern grey kangaroos with 5 carers
- 1 red-necked wallaby



- 1 ringtail possum
- 3 brushtail possums

- 18 birds with 4 carers including Indian miners, galahs, crimson rosellas (1 pictured), pee wees, willy wagtails, swallows and a frogmouth owl.



Rescues

Animals rescued this quarter were:

- An electrocuted ringtail possum was rescued from an electrical pole at Broadwater School.
- A baby brushtail possum was rescued from a domestic cat.
- A magpie was rescued from being impaled on a barbed wire fence.
- A silver gull (seagull) was rescued from Girraween Environmental Lodge
- A microbat was rescued from a domestic cat.
- Two red-necked wallabies were rescued. 1 from Maryland and the 2nd from Dalcouth
- An orphaned eastern grey kangaroo joey was rescued from the Mt Tully area of Stanthorpe.
- Due to the windy weather, many baby birds were rescued and are still in care. They include:
 - * Crimson rosellas
 - * Indian miners
 - * Willy wagtails
 - * Peewees
 - * Swallows
 - * Frogmouth owl
 - * Tree martins
- A koala was rescued from Texas Rd at Greenlands and transported to Moggill koala hospital for treatment.



Releases

Animals released this quarter were:

- The electrocuted ringtail possum received veterinary treatment and was successfully released.
- The impaled magpie received veterinary treatment and was successfully released.
- When he had recovered, the silver gull was transported to Brisbane and was successfully released.
- The microbat was successfully released.
- After being in care for about 6 weeks, two kookaburras were successfully released.
- Two brushtail possums that had been in care were successfully released on the carer's property.





Granite Belt Wildlife Carers
Incorporated

All correspondence to:
The Secretary
c/- PO Box 27
Stanthorpe Q 4380

Phone: 46 833 119
Fax: 46 833 119
E-mail: pbboatfield@bigpond.com

**Member Tally
to Date:
24**

Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc. is a non profit group dedicated to rescuing and caring for sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife in the Granite Belt area of SE Qld.

Native wildlife can become victims from gunshot, collisions with overhead wires, windows and moving vehicles, contact with pesticides and other poisons, attack by domestic and feral animals, plus a variety of other hazards. With our wildlife in danger from so many of man's activities, Granite Belt Wildlife Carers are prepared to do their utmost to aid them in their time of unfortunate suffering.

If you find wildlife in distress, please call a registered wildlife rescuer as soon as possible. Telephone numbers are on the front of this leaflet and in the Granite Belt Informer.

What's Happening!

The Stanthorpe Agricultural Show

Feb 1st and 2nd
at Stanthorpe Showgrounds

Come and see us at the Stanthorpe Show, our stall will be in conjunction with QNPWS in the main hall. We will have many items for sale including our famous hand-made wildlife chocolates in a range of flavours. We will be running a raffle for one of the paintings kindly donated by Rita Collins and we will have carers on hand to answer any of your questions about the rescue and rehabilitation of native wildlife, or about becoming a member of our organization.

See you there!!

AGM

Annual General Meeting

The GBWC Inc AGM will be held on Sunday 10th February, 2008 at the Amiens State School Discovery Centre, Post Office Lane, Amiens, commencing at 10am.

We welcome all existing, renewing and new members.

Bird, Macropod and Reptile Workshop

Day 1, Sat 23rd February, 2008
Bird Workshop

Day 2, Sun 24th February, 2008
Macropod and Reptile Workshop

Both these workshops are being run by Dr Ann Fowler at Nambour Town Hall. See Betty for details, costs and carpooling.

