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GBWC INC. COMMITTEE

President:
Betty Balch
Ph: 46 833 271

Vice President:
Ruth Bott
Ph: 46 833 319

Secretary:
Paula Boatfield
Ph: 46 833 119

Treasurer:
Carmen Nevin
Ph: 46 836 351

It's Winter for our Wildlife too....

Stanthorpe is renowned for its cool temperatures in winter, to the point that local Stanthorpians celebrate it to the max. But whilst we take note of what people do to rug up during this cold season, little regard is given to our native animals and what we can do to make their life during winter a little bit more pleasant.

Macropods

During winter there is less grass around for our macropod friends to chomp on. So they resort to moving to the edges of roadsides to graze on the fresh green grass located there, especially after the council slasher has gone through. At night this practice becomes dangerous as these animals are temporarily blinded by vehicle headlights and inevitably move onto the road. If you drop your lights down one degree, the animals are less likely to be caught in the headlight's beam and can safely move off away from the road. Also if you own property and can find an area to slash and allow the green pick to come up, these animals would then be less likely to move near the road in the first place.

Birds

There are a number of non-migratory bird species that we still see during winter. Despite the temperature, our winged friends still need their daily water, but find it very difficult when there is half an inch of ice to get through first. Move your bird baths or portable watering points to areas of

the garden where they are less likely to be iced over in the morning.

Possums

Possums have been known to totally move house in winter. They move from the drey they have created in deciduous trees to a warmer position in a more sheltered area. In these photos, ring-tailed possums have



moved from their

summerhouse in the nearby liquidambar tree, to the baskets in this garden shed for the winter. Note the mess underneath. The owners can live with this situation, knowing that the possums will move back into the liquidambar tree in the summertime.



Echidnas

Echidnas do roam in winter, looking for a nice warm place to spend winter. However, it's best not to



relocate echidnas as they may have young in a burrow close by...

Reptiles

Lizards and snakes slow down their metabolism to the point where they are almost asleep at this time of the year. If disturbed, they become very cranky. Be particularly careful when moving timber, iron or any other item that has been lying around since summer, in case one of our reptilian friends has made it home for the winter.

What is a torpor?

Many animals can slow down their metabolic rate so that they don't burn body heat during winter. This is called a torpor. Where an animal who hibernates for the winter, stays asleep for the whole season, torpors can last from just overnight, to a few days depending on the weather or temperatures at the time. If you find an animal in a torpor, try to find out where they came from and immediately return them there. Do not warm them up as they'll only have to cool down again.

Bats

Insectivorous bats are one type of animal that goes into a state of torpor during winter. Sometimes they latch on to anything hanging in your house or shed, including jackets and coats, and then just shut themselves down. Remember, do not touch any bat, even if they are in this state. Call one of the wildlife rescuers if they are in a place that is causing a problem.

What the...?

Have you ever... in your life... seen a three legged joey???

No, we haven't discovered a new species or an animal with a deformity.

Turn the pages to reveal the answer to this mystery.....



Have a go at an Anagram

At a recent meeting of the Stanthorpe Garden Club (SGC) committee, developing our next year's program and charity input/output, Mike and Jan Norman suggested that GBWC Inc. would be a worthwhile charity to support, and that they had a fund raising format that had been used successfully in Scotland.

As Jan and Mike were intending to join GBWC Inc. in their own right, they thought it would be practical to combine the two objectives. In return for being nominated, GBWC Inc. members agreed to give talks to the Garden Club members about caring for native wildlife and identifying wildlife friendly plants in the garden.

The fund raising activity comprises an anagram competition where a list of anagram teasers are drawn up for participants to unravel. It is important that the anagram teasers are targeted at the main objectives of the charity in question so in this case the anagrams comprise the names of insects, amphibians, reptiles,

birds and mammals that occur on the Granite Belt.

The teasers are incorporated onto a SGC/GBWC Inc. headed paper that is also colour and number coded for security purposes and they are sold for \$1 per sheet. All correct entries received will be entered into a draw to win \$50 and a number of other prizes, to be drawn at the SGC Gardenfest and Trade Fair event in Stanthorpe October 10 and 11.



A visitor to your garden

This competition has 4 main objectives:

1. To raise funding for GBWC Inc... the more sheets that are sold the more funds raised.
2. To advertise GBWC Inc. and SGC Gardenfest.
3. To increase awareness of GBWC Inc. activities and the increasing plight of our native wildlife.
4. For the purchasers of the sheet to have lots of FUN in unraveling the teasers

Competition sheets are available from Mike Norman, SGC (Ph: 46 4681 0598 or Mob: 0434394626) or from Granite Belt Realty, the Stanthorpe Library, the Stanthorpe Tourist Information Office, or Girraween National Park.

The GBWC Inc. are indebted to the Stanthorpe Garden Club for this initiative and generosity. The funds raised will assist in subsidizing milk powder and other food for animals currently in care.

See how good you are,
solve this...
To reveal the name of a small mouse-like animal that occurs on the Granite Belt

CANE HIT SUN

IGA Community Chest Program

This quarter we are applying to IGA to nominate Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc. to be considered for their Community Chest Program.

In an article posted on IGA's website (www.iga.net.au) for Australia Day this year, IGA National Chairman, Mick Daly said the beauty of the community chest program is that it is helping local communities every day of the year.

"The money collected locally, is distributed locally, with beneficiaries identified by local store owners and customers throughout the year, when they see the need for support within their community," said Mr Daly.

"A lot of the time those in need

are hard to recognise, unless of course you are a part of the local community, which is a key part of the IGA offering," he said.

"On behalf of everyone at IGA I'd like to thank all our customers for helping each store support their local community they are definitely considered great Australians by IGA," Mr Daly said.

In total over 7,000 local charitable causes have been supported by Community Chest fund ranging from schools, fire brigades, youth groups, community arts programs, aged care facilities, sporting groups, natural disaster recovery support and individual families in need of some help through a tough

time.

So if you are shopping in IGA later this year, and you spend over \$50.00 you will be given a token. As you leave the checkouts, you will see a bank of money-boxes each with a charity's name on them. If we are successful, look for Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc. and pop in your token.

After three months IGA will count up the tokens and calculate how much money has been donated (each token is worth 50c). Then they will match that amount dollar for dollar and donate the funds to the charity in question. It's a great way local communities can show their support for charities in need.



A message from our President

And the animals are coming in now! It was nice to have it quiet for a while but it always does change!

Parrot situation

Unfortunately the wild parrot situation has not corrected itself. We are still getting reports of parrots, sick or dead. Chemical poisons have been ruled out and the testing of birds is still continuing to try and determine the cause of the problem. Please contact the Rangers at Girraween, the EPA in Toowoomba (phone 07 4699 4364) or me if you have a sick parrot. The experts out there are telling us that it seems the problem could be spread by the kind people who feed the wild birds. If you are one of these people please make sure you thoroughly clean **DAILY** the plates and bowls you use for feed. This way the disease is less likely to be spread. It is really better you don't feed the birds at all!

Koalas need our help

Our other problem is the Koala situation. Dr Jon Hanger from Australia Zoo was quoted recently in the Border Post about the decline of Koalas in the South East....In the past month we have had 4 Koalas come into care here on the Granite Belt....The three females in the lot had to be euthanased, two with ovarian problems and the third with eyes too badly ulcerated to save. If you see Koalas that have sore eyes or wet bottoms please contact either the rangers or me as soon as you can with an accurate description of the position of the animal and we will do our best to capture and treat it.

A special sight

Referring to Koalas on a lighter note...I wonder if the caller I had one Monday morning recently will ever realise how lucky she was...I was asked to come out to attend to the Koala up the gum tree in this lady's garden. No wet bottom! No sore eyes! I said how special it was

to have this beautiful animal in her garden. Oh NO! She wanted it removed because it was making her "agitated!" Somehow or another I didn't lose my cool, but gee it was hard! So few of us are lucky enough to see them in the wild and with the population decreasing it will become quite an event to have one in your garden, so if you get the chance, look, photograph, and just generally appreciate how special it is.



See you next time

Betty

And the answer was

Mum with twins!!

Twins are very rare in eastern grey kangaroos but there have been some reports documented. Looks a tad crowded in there don't you think?



Did you know.....?

There different kinds of marsupial pouches

Some pouches are like a pocket on the lower half of the females tummy, eg kangaroos (as shown on our mystery picture) and wallabies.



The third kind of 'pouch' isn't really a pouch, but a dent with oozing milk ducts on the female's stomach which is found on the echidna.



Another type of pouch is a flap of skin that covers the tiny newborns like with the dunnarts. The flap disappears as the babies get bigger and are no longer connected to their mother's teats all the time.



Carer Pat Press with Johnny B.

Donations and thank you

This quarter we were donated wildlife and Australian fabrics from two wonderful patchwork fabric companies.

- Busy Thimbles: www.busythimbles.com.au, and



- Sarah J Décor: www.sarahj.com.au

All fabrics donated will be used to make craft items that we can sell at our market stalls. If you are in the market for similar craft fabrics, please consider these two web sites as we appreciate their generosity.



SARAH J HOME DECOR
Homewares & Gifts - Established Since 1994 - Mail Order

These fabrics will be put to good use making items for fund-raising such as decorating handtowels, heat pillows, trivets and many other items. Thank you to both companies for your generosity.

We were also donated this animal transport box that has a difference. The sides of this box fold down to enable easy maneuvering of the animal in and out of the box.

This box was rescued by Bill and Val Henney from the Summit, who painted it up and then thought it was something our group could use. With a bit of mesh on the front we sure can!! Thanks for thinking of us Bill and Val!!



Colin James with his girls, Cherry-lee and Wendy Elizabeth.

And the winner was

The lucky winner of our Apple & Grape Harvest Raffle was Noela Ellis from Brisbane. Noela & her husband Keith visited the Granite Belt in May to claim their prize of a 2 night bed & breakfast stay at Wagtail Cottage Eco Retreat. Over the Festival weekend the raffle was well supported by the local community as well as our visitors, raising a total of \$238 towards the care of our wildlife.

As can be seen here, Roofus was very pleased to meet Noela & extend a warm welcome to Wagtail Cottage. On departure, Noela & Keith expressed their appreciation by making a generous donation of \$20 towards our group. Many thanks to Noela and Keith and everyone who supported our raffle.



Animals currently in care as at 30 June 2008:

Macropods:

- 9 Eastern grey kangaroos including "Digger", "Louka", "Johnny B", "Roofus", "Sally", "Missy", "Bindi", "Macca", "Robie", and "June".
- 3 Red-necked wallabies including "Buster", "Bunty", "Bella" and "Bridget".



Carer Denis Press with Johnnie B and Macca

Possums:

- 5 brush-tailed possums "Wendy Elizabeth", "Colin James", "Casey", "Cherry-lee" and "Daisy-May".

Rescues Animals rescued this quarter were:

Macropods:

- A red-necked wallaby from West Warwick Vets was taken into care.
- A red-necked wallaby from Folkestone Rd was taken into care.
- A red-necked wallaby from Warwick was taken into care.
- A red-necked wallaby from Thorndale Rd was taken into care.
- An eastern grey kangaroo joey from Lucas Estate was taken into care.
- An eastern grey male joey was taken into care.
- An eastern grey female joey from Nundubemere Rd was taken into care.
- Two eastern grey kangaroos were not able to be helped, one at southern intersection of the highway and one who was hit by motorcycle at Amiens.



Carer Pam Fawcett with June

Birds:

- 2 galahs from the Texas Rd.
- A red goshawk was rescued from Liston with a badly torn tendon under it's wing. It was transported to Australia Zoo for treatment.
- A butcher bird from Wallangarra Rd.
- A black-shouldered kite from Vincenzo's with a badly broken wing.
- Several parrots were transported to EPA staff at Toowoomba.

Possums:

- 2 sugar gliders were caught on barbed wires, 1 at Glen Aplin and 1 up Cannon Creek Rd.
- Another sugar glider had attached itself to a dog. It was extracted from it's canine friend and then taken to a crèche of other sugar gliders at Nanango.
- A ringtail possum was rescued from Amiens and taken into care.

Koalas:

- A female koala from Jones Rd in very poor condition and with bad eyes. After euthanasia, it was found to have very badly affected reproductive organs from Chlamydia.
- A second female koala had badly ulcerated eyes.
- A third female koala from Crystal Mountain Rd sent to the Koala Hospital at Moggill.

Releases Animals released this quarter were:

Macropods:

- 1 eastern grey was released soon after rescue at the carer's property.
- 1 red-necked wallaby was released soon after rescue at the carer's property.



Dexter says "Hi there!"

Possums:

- 4 brush-tailed possums "Brian", "Bree", "Dexter" and "Chrissie" were released at the carer's property.

Birds:

- 1 kookaburra was released at 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:
31**

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.



Wendy Elizabeth - brush-tailed possum

What's Happening!

General Meeting

Our next general meeting will be held on **Sunday, 10 August, 2008**, commencing at 10:00 am at the Amiens Discovery Centre, Post Office Lane, Amiens. New and existing members welcome.

Markets

GBWC Inc have market stalls on the following dates this year:

- Sunday 27 July (Market),
- Wed 3 Sept (Community Expo),
- Fri 10 & Sat 11 Oct (Gardenfest),
- Sunday 26 Oct (Market).

The October Market falls in Wildlife Month and we are the nominated charity at the Market in the Mountains that weekend. See you there!

Community Expo

Stanthorpe's annual Community Expo run by the Community Development Service will be held on **Wed 3rd September** where local community groups can showcase their individual groups and promote what they do.

Gardenfest

Stanthorpe's Gardenfest and Trade Fair will be held on **Friday 10th and Sat 11th October, 2008** in the Civic Centre.

As mentioned previously, the Stanthorpe Garden Club is supporting GBWC Inc in a fund raising endeavour to be drawn at Gardenfest. Come along and support both our groups.



Echidna Workshop

Wilvos are running a workshop in Nambour on **12th October, 2008** on the rescue and rehabilitation of echidnas. The presenter is Dr Peggy Rismiller who works at the Pelican Lagoon Research Facility on Kangaroo Island, SA.

Whilst this workshop coincides with our October meeting, some members may wish to attend and bring what they learn back to our group. More details to come.

