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**GBWCI
COMMITTEE**

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Tawnys by the dozen!! (story by Ruth Bott)

The caring and recent release of five tawny frogmouth chicks has been an event that could have been stage managed by a Hollywood director but was in fact a Mother Nature production extravaganza.



After Freddie arrived from Merle Richardson at Dalveen, in early November, the open beak and constant "purring" for food was a very manageable situation and of course, very interesting to observe the daily growth, shedding of baby down feathers to see bigger, darker adult feathers grow through the fluff quite quickly .

Another phone call a week later, and the Grommitt arrived from the caravan park at Storm King Dam to keep Freddie company.

Two are just as time consuming as one so all is well in the purple bird carrying cage.

Three days later and Wallace arrived from Eukey Rd area to make a

threesome.

The open beaks demanding food and previously pleasant "purring" was now not so quiet and beaks snapping on tweezerfuls of mince and insectivore powder, mixed with feathers, beetles, crickets, and a pinch of calcium powder and dirt was taking more time and cottonwool in the ears.

Thank goodness my Broadwater School students are so keen to learn and help, so the day time feeding roster was easy to fill.

The very next day, Grumpy arrived from the Warwick vet to join the Frogmouth family and for one week we thought that was the end of the saga.

But no- there's more- little Mo (as in eeny, meeny, miney and Mo) arrived from Kirsten and we were ready to say the inn was full.

Not only were they eating about 250 g of meat a day, but the owl smell that accompanies the well aimed splots away from the nest was starting to invade our pleasant classroom.

By general consensus, Freddie and Grumpy, the elder two, had to stay at home in the aviary which worked out very well as they were doing quite a bit of practise flapping with their fully grown wings and flying short distances from window ledge to my head.

In early December, Freddie



and Grumpy were released in our garden each day and developed good flight.

They returned each evening to the larger cage and still continue in late January to return each night for a supplementary feed. Only 1 of the Wallace and Grommitt pair still return.

To identify the now adult birds, I have colour coded their toenails with nail polish.

Mo was taken to Mo's Den at Mike and Jan Norman's for release into their garden and the mountain background, and Mike reports he is doing well.

Altogether a very enjoyable learning and caring experience for all concerned.



Big Brother comes to Mother Nature!



Stealthcam images of an echidna and a lyrebird in Girraween National Park.

Everyone knows the television show "Big Brother" provides entertainment to its audiences showcasing animal behaviour behind closed doors. Well rangers at Girraween National Park have been working on their very own version of a Big Brother series, with their very own concealed camera and starring Girraween's four legged characters!

For the last 12 months, staff have been conducting wildlife surveys using borrowed 'Stealthcams'. Using remote sensors and infrared technology, night or day video or photos have been captured of some of Girraween's most remarkable creatures. While common wombats have been the main target; superb lyrebirds, echidnas, foxes, dingoes/wild dogs, rodents, reptiles and

birds have also been captured. They've even captured footage of a long-nosed bandicoot that had never been recorded in the park!



While it sounds fun, it's also providing valuable information to their existing wildlife studies. For the last 5 years, over 30 people have volunteered their time for two weekends a year to assist with wombat surveys. This group is known as WIG (Wombat Interest Group). The cameras are currently assisting WIG's studies and verifying their survey methods.

So if you have a spare \$600 you could

purchase one of the Stealthcams for yourself by visiting www.ozhuntingandboys.com.au. The camera we are using is the Stealthcam Prowler, which takes up to 90 seconds footage as many times as the 2MB card will store, using 6 x 'C' size batteries and a visit once a week.

If anybody would be interested in joining WIG email jolene.mclellan@epa.qld.gov.au for more information.



Stealthcam image of a wombat in Girraween National Park.



The reverse nickel kangaroo on gold scissors is also available.

Scissoroo is here!

The Scissoroo® is a uniquely Australian pair of scissors, featuring the iconic Australian kangaroo. They are an ideal embroidery or thread cutting pair of utility scissors.

In addition to being owned and treasured by many Australians, Scissoroo® make the perfect souvenir or gift from Australia for friends and family overseas.

The first edition Scissoroo® are presented in an attractive matt-black tin with the Scissoroo® crest on the front and the Scissoroo® story on the back.

Scissoroo scissors are available from the 'Scissor man' at <http://www.scissorman.com.au/products/scissoroo/scissoroo>.

They are currently retailing for \$49.95. The picture below shows a gold kangaroo on nickel scissors.



A word from the President

Another year gone! It's been a very successful year financially which is excellent, and so good to think we are again able to subsidise out food stuffs for the following year. And hopefully have some new facilities in place before too long.

We have had a steady stream of animals pass through our care for the year, probably the saddest part of it is that none of the female koalas have been able to be returned to the wild. They had very badly affected reproductive organs which would have meant a slow and painful death for them if they were left in the wild. Very sad. But it was good to see the boys go

charging up the trees again, after their stint in hospital. A couple of endangered species have passed through our care too, and it is rewarding that we are successfully able to return them to the wild.

The bush fire situation is probably foremost on our minds at the moment. It is too hard to imagine the devastation for the people as well as the animals. Especially the native fauna, as to most they are the last on the list. We have been selling dahlias to raise money to send to Wildlife Victoria and to date have over \$300 with donations as well.

We look forward to a good year...that really would be one with no animals in care, but that is too idealistic! Our first Major workshop looks like being May 9th. That will be for birds and reptiles. We will keep you posted. All the best for a good Monster Market on March 28th.

Betty



Releasing Spencer

Spencer the koala was found Spencer Rd, near Lucas Estate, and he was in a bad way.

The chlamydia bacteria had invaded his eyes so badly that he needed eye surgery if he was going to have hope of achieving full sight, and living a full and happy life in the wild.

Spencer was captured and transported to the Moggill Koala Hospital for his surgery and then came back to Betty for further care prior to release.

The day came when he had

recovered enough to venture into the great outdoors again.

The release coincided with a Land for Wildlife event being held at Lucas Estate Winery.

A suitable tree was found, and up he went.

Subsequent sightings by Lucas Estate employees prove that he is a happy chappy!

And that is what our group's efforts are all about. Successful releases in the wild.



Almost missed it! Spencer's release to a crowd of onlookers. Once Spencer knew what to do, he was off!

We got the tent.... and then some!

Late in 2008, an opportunity arose for us to apply for two lots of funding.

- 1) Firstly, to purchase a marquee under the Volunteer Grants Program which will assist our volunteers at community and fundraising events, and
- 2) Secondly, to make purchases through the Qld Govt's

Community Benefit Fund to set our group up with equipment for rescuing animals, caring and rehabilitating them, and increasing our public awareness through publicity.

We are pleased to advise that we were successful on both counts. More about this wonderful news in the next issue.....



Our two rare gems!



Neve and Jesse with Johnny B.

During previous newsletters we reported to you the activities that Neve Cavanagh and Jesse Batterham have initiated to raise funds for our group, and awareness about wildlife.

They included busking in the main street, singing about wildlife, and running a garage sale where the proceeds went to our group.

Neve took it one step further and formed a wildlife awareness group at her school, ran a colouring

competition about wildlife and organized talks and displays for the Girl Guides.

Well all of these activities culminated in the presentation of funds amounting to over \$600 to our group at our last meeting.

Neve's individual awards were recognized through our nominating her for an Australia Day award in the Junior Cultural section, which we were happy to announce that she won.

Well done, Neve, and well

done Jesse. We'll have you both on our team anytime!



Neve presenting Betty with funds raised



Image: Deborah O'Neill



Walk for Wildlife

Early one Sunday morning in November, 40-odd trusty carers and supporters met at Heritage Park to walk around Quart Pot Creek.

The sponsored walk was to raise funds for our group and to raise awareness about wildlife coming into the Summer months.

The walk was complimented

by articles in both the Border Post and Free Times and by an extensive publicity campaign organized by Jo McLellan.

The funds raised by sponsored walkers, and other donations amounted to over \$600.00. We thank everyone who supported this event.



And the winner is

The winner of our Tasmanian Devil sculpture was local resident Trish Crampton. Trish was said to be very thrilled at winning her very precious prize and has given him a very special spot to reside in.

Congratulations Trish! Which brings us up to a

couple of other fundraising ventures. Mike and Jan Norman are happy to run a plant stall at the next Monster Market, and so are calling on all you green thumbs out there to pot up plants with roots (not just

cuttings) that we could sell. Mike is also running another anagram competition this year. Competition sheets are \$1 and available from Mike at normanhq@hotmail.com or at Granite Belt Realty in town. Spread the word...





Rescues - Animals rescued as at 31 December 2008:

Birds

- 1 kookaburra who got hooked up on a barbed wire fence
- 1 tawny frogmouth owl from a barbed wire fence
- 1 eastern rosella attacked by a domestic cat
- 1 galah that had been hit by a car
- 1 wattlebird that had been attacked by a domestic cat
- 5 tawny frogmouth owls, from separate locations, all fallen from nests in storms and high winds
- 1 white faced heron
- 1 magpie

- 1 black-faced cuckoo strike
- 1 kingfisher

Possums

- 10 sugar gliders
- 1 brush- tail possum



Macropods

- 1 swamp wallaby pinky
- 2 eastern-grey kangaroo pinkies
- 2 red-necked wallabies
- 4 fully haired eastern grey kangaroos

Reptiles

- 1 turtle with broken shell



Animals currently in care as at 31 December 2008:

Birds

- 1 magpie
- 1 white faced heron
- 1 black-faced cuckoo strike
- 5 tawny frogmouth owls

Possums

- 4 ring-tail possums
- 8 sugar gliders

Macropods

- 3 eastern grey kangaroos
- 4 red-necked wallabies

Other

- 2 grey-headed flying foxes
- 1 koala



Releases - Animals released as at 31 December 2009:

Birds

- The kookaburra from the barbed-wire fence
- 3 tawny frogmouth owls

Other

- 2 grey-headed flying foxes (not released in the Stanthorpe area)





Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Incorporated

All correspondence to:

The Secretary

c/- PO Box 27

Phone/Fax: 46 833 119

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**Member Tally
to Date:
27**

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.



Next Meeting!

**Sunday April 26th,
2009**

What's Happening!

Monster Market!

**Saturday 28th March, 2009
Broadwater Hall**

Yes our extremely popular Monster Market is back by popular demand. Last year's one was so well received, we are bowing to the pressure and having another one. If you want to book a stall or have any queries, ring Pam on 46 835 199.

We will have a sausage sizzle, tea and coffee (and cake), a plant stall, our own stall and, of course, all the second hand goods a community garage sale can offer!



Plant Drive!

In conjunction with Molle River Nursery, GBWC Inc are running a native plant drive during 2009.

These plant drives have proven very popular in past years and the plants are always top quality.

Pick up a form and list of plants from the Monster Market, or after March 28 from Granite Belt Realty and don't forget to take a few for your friends.

Instructions will be on the forms.



New Committee

The Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc wish to advise changes to our committee. The 2009 committee consist of:

- President: Betty Balch
- Vice President: Ruth Bott
- Secretary: Paula Boatfield
- Treasurer: Vicki Cavanagh

We welcome Vicki to the committee and pass on our best wishes and thanks to Carmen Nevin who held the position of Treasurer for the past two years.

