

Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

Caring for Queensland's Wildlife

PO BOX 806 Cannonvale QLD 4802 Ph. 4947 3389

Newletter 39 October/ November 2007

Committee Members

President : Sue McLeod

4947 3075

Vice President: Jacqui Webb

4947 3308

Secretary: Sandy Cleeland

49473324

Treasurer: Le-Anne Dinnie

4947 1967 (w)

Membership Steward: Lynne Clarke

4946 5736

Fundraising Officer: Maren

Matthew

4945 7116

Food Supplies Officer: Linden Baker

4946 1198

SEEN ANY ROAD KILL, LATELY?

Ever wondered how many of our native animals are killed on the road every day? Yes! Lots! Even so, the ones you see are only part of the story. For every dead female, there could also be another one in the pouch and another one just out of the pouch but still dependent. One road kill, three casualties? It is estimated that vehicles cause the **DAILY** slaughter of 7000 animals in NSW alone!!

Why! In the early 1990's a University of Tasmania zoologist was studying the population of the eastern quoll around Cradle Mountain.

Partway through it the road was upgraded, sealed and one of the sharp corners taken out. Average speeds went from 40 – 60 km/h to 60 – 80 km/h. Within 18 months the local population of eastern quolls went extinct!

Ninety percent of animal fatalities are estimated to be speed related. Drivers going too fast to be able to safely avoid hitting an animal on the road, particularly after dark. Do we really need to be in such a hurry? Speed is also the biggest single factor in human fatalities on our roads.

Please! Slow down, particularly after dark. Who knows! The life you save could be your own!

A. McLeod. Source: Australian Geographic Jul – Sep 2006)

Donations for Christmas Raffle

The committee is currently seeking donations of wine, spirits, and beer for our wheelbarrow of cheer and non perishable goodies for our Christmas Hamper. We are hoping to have all donations in by the 8th of December as we start selling tickets on the stalls on the 10th.

If you do have items to donate please contact your closest committee member to organise delivery or pick up.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!!

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS....

Liz Stringer, First Agency (Heather MacRae), Wendy Finning, Lola Mudie, Teena Reeves, Kylee Gray, Proserpine River Eco Tours (Jacqui & Steve Watson).

PRESIDENTS REPORT

You will have noticed that our newsletter has taken on a "new look". Shelley Edwards took over responsibility as Newsletter Editor several months ago. This hasn't been without its challenges as Shelley has had to deal with a number of hardware and software problems. It would have been very easy for her to throw in the towel, but she has persevered and for that I am extremely grateful. Well done Shelley!

Fauna Rescue's Public Fund is approved by the Australian Tax Office to receive tax deductible donations. The fund has two new committee members Val Nancarrow and Jack Lumby. The new committee met for the first time last month and it was great to hear Val's and Jack's ideas and their enthusiastic support for FRW. It is our intention to develop a much more proactive approach to fund raising. With this in mind we will be holding a Finance and Fund raising meeting early in the new year. We would love to have those of you who are interested to come along and throw in your ideas too.

Once again I would ask that if any of you have some available time we still need helpers for the Hotline Service. It is very fortunate Kim Cott volunteered to help (thank you so much Kim) because as fast as we gained one helper we lost another!

Cheryl Dean, a founding member, has resigned from her various positions in FRW. Thank you Cheryl for your involvement with the work of FRW over the years. I am glad you will remain as a member and thanks for the times you've helped me learn about caring.

The end of a long and protracted process is finally over. The Office of Fair Trading has advised that our new constitution, which was passed on the 11th August 2007, has been approved. I wish to acknowledge the huge effort our Secretary Sandy has put into this. There have been many, many hours spent reading, researching, consulting and seemingly endless amounts of typing, formatting and proofreading. (Not to mention retyping, reformatting and re proofreading!) Thank you Sandy!

Our Schools and Community education program continues to tick along. We are in the midst of the next round of Petpep talks to school children in the region. We have also given a presentation on Fauna Rescue to the Airlie Beach Probus Club.

Whitsunday Shire Council collects a Biodiversity Levy as part of property owners' rates each year. FRW is a participant in the Biodiversity Levy Stakeholder Reference Group and this gives us the opportunity to advise council on matters relating to biodiversity in our Shire.

In other news the committee is hoping to be able to offer some Q fever and Lyssavirus vaccinations to our new wallaby and flying fox carers. Queensland Tropical Health requires these vaccinations must be done through a GP. We are making arrangements with a local medical practice and this will take a little time to organise before it eventuates.

On the 23rd February 2008 we will be holding a course on First Aid for Native Wildlife. It is a full day course designed to teach carers about the principles of first aid, conducting a full assessment of injured animals, and applying first aid for wounds, fractures etc. It will also cover fluid therapy and medicating. This course is from Wildcare Australia and will be conducted by one of their qualified educators. We believe the course will have something for everyone from the novice to the experienced carer; so put the date in your diary.

Unfortunately I have a very ill family member. This means I will be in NSW and unable to attend our Christmas BBQ (which will have been and gone by the time you receive this newsletter). So I will take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas.

Sue McLeod

"FAUNA & FLORA MASQUERADE"

" A NIGHT TO REMEMBER"

8TH MARCH 2008*More details to follow.*

We are looking for volunteers to join our social committee. Help make it a night to remember and enjoy lots of fun in the process. There's a place for everyone who wants to join in.

Phone Maren: 4945 7116.

Cane Toad Arthritis.

Everyone in our region is well aware of the cane toads and the detrimental effects they have on our ecosystem. Their population escalating rapidly and their movement to regions where they had never been seen before.

The expansion of toad population has increased in previous years from 10km/year to 60km/year with toads evolving longer legs to travel faster. An article published by the Australasian Science magazine states that the toad is selectively breeding itself into arthritis sufferers.

10% of the long legged toads have large swellings on their spine. This makes them weaker to harmful bacteria and possibly vulnerable to parasites that have been able to infect more sedentary toads before. The toads population is by no means decreasing, however studies suggest it may stop things from getting worse.

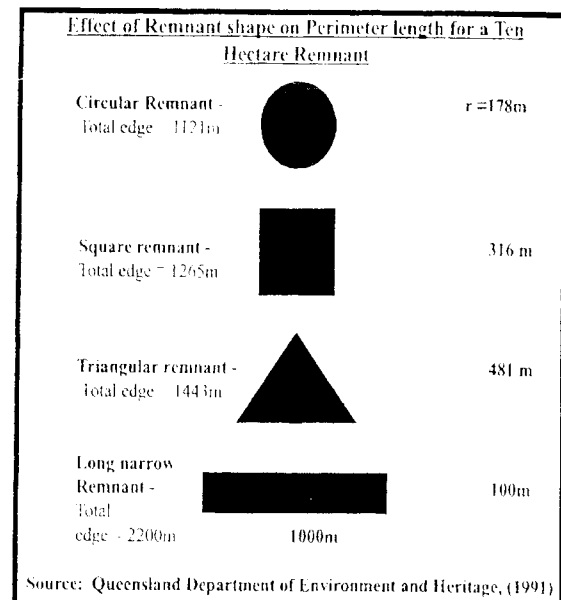
It is just the beginning of findings that can possibly control the toad population in the future.

Shelley Edwards , Source: Volume 28 Australasian Science Magazine and Prof. Rick Shine. Uni. Sydneys School of Biological Sciences.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF REMNANT BUSHLAND.

For me being passionate about caring for our native wildlife and native bush go hand in hand. There is no doubt in my mind that each is dependent on the other for survival, although some more so than others.

One of my personal challenges and a source of great satisfaction has been the protection of the existing rainforest growing on our 5 acre property. Alan and I have also revegetated an area that had been previously cleared and was severely infested with lantana and other weeds. Our property like many in the district is a long rectangular shape. I was recently reading some literature put out by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland about remnant vegetation. It may be of interest to those of you who are also interested in habitat protection.



“Much remaining habitat occurs as small islands of native bush surrounded by cleared land. Many of these “islands” are along riverbanks, roads and railway lines. They are therefore long and thin. This is the worst shape to allow species survival in the long term because of “edge effects.”

Long narrow areas of bush are almost all “edge”. Because of this they are far more severely affected by disturbances from feral animals, weeds, fire, wind, sunlight exposure and so on. The best shapes for remnant bush are circles and squares. These have shorter perimeters relative to area. Also a large number of animals have roughly circular territories, and many require a wide home range.

Another problem is that if a small area of bush is completely unconnected with other bush, inbreeding of both plants and animals can occur. Species will gradually disappear. Some species do not cross open ground and those that do are exposed to accidents or attack.

So it can be seen that the loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitat has a negative impact on our native wildlife. Fortunately Fauna Rescue Whitsundays, by its efforts, can and does help make a positive contribution to the protection of both our native wildlife and their habitat. In addition to pursuing our primary objectives as a wildlife care group we are represented on the shire council’s Biodiversity Levy Stakeholders Reference Group and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare.

No wonder then that one of our objects is:

“To encourage the members and the broader community to maintain, restore and create suitable wildlife habitat.”

Sue Mcleod

BEAK AND FEATHER DISEASE

This disease, Psittacine Circoviral disease which is commonly known as Beak and Feather Disease, occurs naturally in the wild. Beak and Feather Disease is highly infectious, fatal viral disease which affects the immune system of birds of the parrot family.

This disease destroys normal feather growth and the bird often dies from other infections as the PBFV virus makes the bird an immunological cripple. Death can occur shortly after symptoms appear, or months or years later.

The disease is highly contagious to other parrots and is spread by inhalation or ingestion of infected feather dust, crop secretions and faecal material, or as a result of preening. Neonates and juveniles are most susceptible while adult birds over 2 years old are less at risk. Birds are most susceptible to infection at the time of their first and subsequent moults. There is no treatment; Euthanasia is the kindest, and only, option.

SYMPTOMS: In young birds during their first moult: Depression and Diarrhea, very little feather abnormality, anorexia for a short period and then death.

In Older Birds : Feathers stop growing after emerging follicles, feathers become increasingly abnormal with each moult, both in colour, form and length, contour feathers are affected late in the disease, new feathers have retained feather sheaths, blood within shafts are curled and deformed or short and clubbed. Because the bird is unable to fly, the leg muscles are often well developed, birds will be on the thin side due to their difficulty in obtaining food and the excessive energy expended running around and constantly re climbing trees, many affected birds are admitted with dislocated shoulders as their primary feathers needed for flight cause them to crash, often from great heights. Beaks change in appearance from dull black to glossy and grow abnormally long, beaks develop splits and cracks which break, peel and flake and damaged beaks can be invaded by bacteria and fungi.

Warning: These infected birds can be quite aggressive.

Infected birds are often brought in by people who either think the bird is a juvenile because of the bird's apparently small size due to the foreshortened feathers and its inability to fly, or think the bird is the victim of a raptor or cat attack because the tail feathers appear to be missing.

INFECTION CONTROL: If you have used a cage to deliver an infected bird, please disinfect the cage thoroughly, before leaving it in the sun for a couple of days. If you have out the infected bird in with your own birds, disinfect the cage and watch your birds for symptoms. This disease is only contagious amongst birds of the parrot and lorikeet family: it is not transmissible to humans.

from Kanyana Wild Life Rehabilitation Centre. WA

FIRST AID FOR NATIVE WILDLIFE

WORKSHOP : Presented by:

WILDCARE AUSTRALIA

23RD FEBRUARY 2008 (To be confirmed)

Please register your interest in attending.

Phone Sue 4947 3075 or Sandy 4947 3324

FRIDGE FOR SALE

Fauna Rescue has a fridge for sale in good condition

\$200 ono

Contact Le-Anne

*A big thankyou to
Jan Jarrat's office
for their assistance
with the newsletter
printing*

WANTED: BIRD CARERS ARE NEEDED, PLEASE CONTACT JACQUI WEBB IF YOU CAN OFFER YOUR SERVICES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

QLD Parks & Wildlife: 4946 7022

Whitsunday Shire Council: 4945 0200

Wildlife Preservation Society: 4785 2969

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare: 4945 0267

Marine mammal stranding hotline: 1300 130 372

Aus. Wildlife rescue: Mackay District: 4954 3268

RSPCA Mackay: 4945 1028 Vet:Dr.Julie Ruddel: 4946 1028 Vet:Dr.Bill Bowman: 4945 1878 Vet:Dr.Mark Williams: 4946 1631

AL'S FAUNA RESCUE SYSTEM
FAUNA RESCUE WHITSUNDAYS ASSOC. INC.
ANIMALS FOUND BETWEEN 15/09/2007 and 18/11/2007 for ALL CARERS
(No. of records = 63)

COMMON NAME	CARER	ID	DATE FOUND	WHERE FOUND	STATUS	DATE	RELEASE PLACE
Bandicoot: Northern Brown	Lois Trapp	X4	6/10/2007	Conway	Died	7/10/2007	
Betong: Rufous	Susan McLeod	Harrison	6/10/2007	Gunyarra	Transferred	8/10/2007	
Black-cockatoo: Red-tailed	Leigh Skead	Lucky	26/10/2007	Bowen	In Care		
Cuckoo-shrike: Black-faced	Elizabeth Gordon		30/10/2007	Bowen	Transferred	11/11/2007	
Currawong: Pied	Linden Baker		15/09/2007	South Molle Island	Died	15/09/2007	
Dove: Peaceful	Susan McLeod	alpha	16/09/2007	Mt Julian	Transferred	17/09/2007	
Dove: Peaceful	Susan McLeod	beta	16/09/2007	Mt Julian	Transferred	17/09/2007	
Dove: Peaceful	Leigh Skead		17/09/2007	Al & Sue's	Died	21/09/2007	
Echidna: Short-beaked	Carol Cosentino		11/10/2007	Collinsville	Transferred	11/10/2007	
Figbird	Elizabeth Gordon		30/10/2007	Bowen	Transferred	11/11/2007	
Friarbird: Helmeted	Susan McLeod	The Fuzz	4/11/2007	Cannonvale	Transferred	15/11/2007	
Friarbird: Noisy	Leigh Skead		3/10/2007	Dr Bill	Transferred	9/10/2007	
Frogmouth: Tawny	Elizabeth Gordon		20/09/2007	Bowen	Released	16/10/2007	Bowen
Frogmouth: Tawny	Elizabeth Gordon		17/10/2007	Bowen	Transferred	11/11/2007	
Galah	Elizabeth Gordon		29/10/2007	Bowen	Transferred	11/11/2007	
Glider: Squirrel	Lynne Clarke	Mitzi	11/10/2007	Midge Point	Died	12/10/2007	
Glider: Squirrel	Lynne Clarke	Tam	11/10/2007	Midge Point	Euthanised	12/10/2007	
Glider: Squirrel	Lynne Clarke	Tai	11/10/2007	Midge Point	Euthanised	12/10/2007	
Glider: Squirrel	Lynne Clarke	Lulu	31/10/2007	Conway	Died	31/10/2007	
Glider: Squirrel	Lynne Clarke	Pep	31/10/2007	Cannonvale	Died	31/10/2007	
Goose: Magpie	Lynne Clarke	George	7/11/2007	Dingo Beach Road	In Care		
Gull: Silver	Leigh Skead		12/10/2007	Dr Bill	Released	12/10/2007	Proserpine Showground
Gull: Silver	Jacqui Webb	#1	29/09/2007	Shute Harbour	Transferred	2/10/2007	
Gull: Silver	Jacqui Webb	#2	29/09/2007	Shute Harbour	Transferred	2/10/2007	
Heron: White-faced	Cathie Shoemilh		9/10/2007	Palm Grove	In Care		
Honeyeater: Blue-faced	Carol Cosentino		24/09/2007	Scottsville	Died	24/09/2007	
Honeyeater: Blue-faced	Leigh Skead		8/10/2007	Dr Bill	Transferred	9/10/2007	
Imperial-pigeon: Pied	Jacqui Webb		22/09/2007	Proserpine	Euthanised	23/09/2007	
Imperial-pigeon: Pied	Linden Baker		22/09/2007	Proserpine	Euthanised	23/09/2007	
Kangaroo: Eastern Grey	Lois Trapp	SAMPSON	1/11/2007	Dingo Beach Road	In Care		
Kite: Black	Leigh Skead		4/11/2007	Cheryl's	Released	7/11/2007	Proserpine Showground
Kookaburra: Laughing	Linden Baker		15/09/2007	Cannonvale	Released	21/09/2007	Cannonvale
Kookaburra: Laughing	Lynne Clarke	Jaffa	30/09/2007	Mandalay	Released	30/09/2007	Mandalay
Kookaburra: Laughing (Found)	Leigh Skead		4/11/2007	Myrtle Creek	Released	16/11/2007	Myrtle Creek

COMMON NAME	CARER	ID	DATE FOUND	WHERE FOUND	STATUS	DATE	RELEASE PLACE
Kookaburra: Laughing	Lynne Clarke	Chuck	4/11/2007	Myrtle Creek	Transferred	4/11/2007	
Kookaburra: Laughing	Leigh Skead		10/11/2007	Mackay	In Care		
Magpie: Australian	Elizabeth Gordon		24/10/2007	Bowen	Transferred	11/11/2007	
Magpie-lark	Susan McLeod	Muddles	28/09/2007	Proserpine	Released	26/10/2007	Conway
Magpie-lark	Elizabeth Gordon		29/10/2007	Bowen	Transferred	11/11/2007	
Magpie-lark	Leigh Skead		31/10/2007	Proserpine	In Care		
Pigeon: Topknot	Leigh Skead		25/10/2007	Dr Bill	Released	26/10/2007	Proserpine Showground
Possum: Common Brushtail	Lynne Clarke	Ezy	20/09/2007	Airlie Beach	Euthanised	21/09/2007	
Possum: Common Brushtail	Lynne Clarke	Mazfin	20/09/2007	Airlie Beach	Died	20/09/2007	
Possum: Common Brushtail	Lynne Clarke	Wee Willie	22/09/2007	Strathdickie	Died	23/09/2007	
Possum: Common Brushtail	Carol Cosentino		30/09/2007	Scottsville	In Care		
Possum: Common Brushtail	Anne Blomeley		1/10/2007	Bowen	In Care		
Possum: Common Brushtail	Leigh Skead		25/10/2007	Proserpine	Died	26/10/2007	
Possum: Common Brushtail	Elizabeth Gordon		2/11/2007	Bowen	In Care		
Possum: Common Brushtail	Lynne Clarke	Jordan	5/11/2007	Dr Julie	In Care		
Rosella: Pale-headed	Cathie Shoemith		6/10/2007	Dingo Beach Road	Released	11/10/2007	Dingo Beach Road
Rosella: Pale-headed	Cathie Shoemith		6/10/2007	Dingo Beach Road	Died	6/10/2007	
Sparrow: House	Lynne Clarke	Kenny	14/10/2007	Airlie Beach	Died	17/10/2007	
Turtle: Northern Long-neck	Leigh Skead		5/10/2007	Goonganga Wetlands	Euthanised	5/10/2007	
Wallaby: Agile	Cathie Shoemith		24/09/2007	Strathdickie	Died	24/09/2007	
Wallaby: Agile	Carol Cosentino		26/09/2007	Scottsville	In Care		
Wallaby: Agile	Cathie Shoemith	TANIKA	27/09/2007	Unknown	Transferred	28/09/2007	
Wallaby: Agile	Susan McLeod	Ember	29/09/2007	Mt Julian	Euthanised	1/10/2007	
Wallaby: Agile	Rebecca Adamson		30/09/2007	Shute Harbour	In Care		
Wallaby: Agile	Sandra Cleeland	Mishy	11/10/2007	Unknown	Died	16/10/2007	
Wallaby: Agile	Cathie Shoemith		12/10/2007	Long Island	In Care		
Wallaby: Agile	Elizabeth Gordon		22/10/2007	Bowen	In Care		
Wallaby: Agile	Elizabeth Gordon		26/10/2007	Bowen	In Care		
Wallaby: Agile	Sandra Cleeland	AI	10/11/2007	Conway	Transferred	11/11/2007	

(Found)

FAUNA RESCUE WHITSUNDAYS
ASSOCIATION INC

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS

\$3 each

***PRIZES DONATED BY OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES
& FAUNA RESCUE MEMBERS***

1ST PRIZE - WHEELBARROW FULL OF BOOZE

2ND PRIZE - HAMPER

All proceeds go towards helping our Native Wildlife.

Raffle drawn, 22nd December 2007.

Please sell the tickets below and return by

18th December, 2007.

Thankyou.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

**** Please return money and tickets by Friday 18th December to:**

PO Box 806, Cannonvale 4802