



Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

Caring for Queensland's Wildlife

PO BOX 806 Cannonvale QLD 4802 Ph: 4947 3389

Newletter Issue 40 December 2007/January 2008

### 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

### Species Co-ordinators

Proserpine Rock Wallabys

Judith Pannan Ph: 4945 4779

Koalas/Echidnas/Birds/Raptors

Jacqui Webb Ph: 4947 3308 / 0427 176  
966

Macropods

Lois Trapp Ph: 4945 7256

Possums

Lynne Clarke Ph: 4946 5736

Reptiles/Koala

Linden Baker Ph: 4946 1198

Newlsetter editor: Shelley Edwards

Ph: 0448635402 or shell22c@yahoo.com

## *WILDCARE AUSTRALIA FIRST AID FOR NATIVE WILDLIFE TRAINING DAY: Presented by Kathryn Biber*

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 Starting time: 9am**

**Venue: Cannonvale Neighbourhood Centre, Hazelwood  
Dve,Cannonvale.**

**Topics Include: Wildlife injuries and Diseases, Assessment, Handling and Housing. This full day course is designed to teach carers about the principles of First Aid, conducting a full assessment of injured animals, and applying first aid for the wounds, fractures, etc. It will also cover fluid therapy and medication.**

## **ALL ARE WELCOME**

**FREE FOR MEMBERS / \$20.00 FOR NON MEMBERS**

**Don't miss out, reserve your place now!**

**Contact Sue: 4947 3075 / e-mail: [largoinn@optusnet.com.au](mailto:largoinn@optusnet.com.au)**

*A warm welcome to our new members:*

***Kym Chandler , Rachel Phillips and Michelle Landers.***

Apologies to Rebecca McRae for the misspelling of your name in the last issue.

### REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

2007 is now a memory. I would like to thank all of you who helped keep the organisation ticking along during November and December. Your willingness to pick up and run with the various activities that I had to drop at short notice is sincerely appreciated. It was a wonderful demonstration of caring that extends beyond our native wildlife to the wellbeing of our members as well. While the committee has had a break over the Christmas period our individual members and carers have had a somewhat hectic time. There's no doubt the more you put in the more you get out. The Christmas raffle raised over \$1650 thanks to the time, effort and persistence of the members involved. Thanks to you all. On the caring front we have been very busy. The hotline operators and rescuers have had a steady stream of calls to respond to. I particularly wish to thank Carmen Johnson for her stirring contribution to the Hotline/Rescue service. Carmen has been the mainstay of the service for a long, long time. (Please read the hotline report elsewhere in the newsletter for more information). Carers have had multiples of animals to look after. Birds of all shapes and sizes. Tawny frog mouth, kookaburras, kingfishers, friarbirds, magpies and woodswallows just to name a few. Agile wallabies, eastern greys, possums galore, snakes and more!

The very special dedication of our carers and determination to do the utmost to help save an animal was evident recently. Carol Cosentino (who lives in Collinsville) received a koala that had been hit by a car. Carol drove from Collinsville to Cannonvale in order to have the koala checked by our local vet Mark Williams. It is nothing for Carol to drive long distances to try to ensure the best possible outcome for animals rescued in her area. I would also like to share this delightful little comment taken from one of our hotline operator's summary sheets. "Baby fig bird. Taking its first training flight with parent nearby. Kim put back in tree. Observed over next three hours. Parents assisted and young bird made it up tree to roost!" The wildlife of the Whitsundays are in good and caring hands.

Our first carers' coffee and chat afternoon had ten members attend. It was a relaxed, enjoyable and friendly afternoon. Thanks to our hosts Brian and Leigh who made everyone feel very welcome. It's surprising just how much can be gained simply by talking about our experiences and sharing our ideas and the different ways we deal with problems that come up. We were all impressed with the Hot box that Brian had just finished constructing. It had obviously been well researched and designed to provide the maximum benefit. It certainly kept my three newly acquired baby birds warm for the duration! Leigh and Brian have also started breeding meal worms and mice to be available as a source of food for animals in FRW care. A new Code of Practice -Wildlife Care issue 070912 has been received. There doesn't appear to be any changes to the actual contents, rather references to various legislation, Acts etc have been amended. It has not been loaded onto the EPA website at this stage. Please contact me if you would like to receive a copy, or it can be found on the FRW Carer's Database in the document's section. On a totally different note the ANZ Bank holds a national fund raising drive each year known as Blue Week. Each individual branch raises funds for a local charity of their choice. The staff at Cannonvale ANZ Bank have selected Fauna Rescue Whitsundays as the charity they wish to support. So look out for the bank's promotion of FRW on the week of 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

*Sue Mcleod*

1/1/08 **Another Puggles in care with Fauna Rescue.**

This little creature is a puggles, the term commonly given to baby echidn



Echidnas are monotremes (egg laying mammals). Their closest living relative is the platypus. Echidnas are found in all types of habitat around Australia and New Guinea, although the platypus' ancestors date back to South America, just after the dinosaurs disappeared. The first known written record of echidnas in Australia was in Captain Bligh's log on the ship Bounty.

Echidnas breed from June to early September and usually only mate once in a season and tend to only have one egg in that time. The egg is laid into the female echidnas pouch and the incubation period lasts about 10 days. The female then enters the specially dug nursery burrow until the egg hatches, which can be about two to three weeks. The hatchling weighs approximately 0.3-0.4gms. The puggles is normally carried in the pouch for approximately 53 days, at which stage it weighs between 180g - 260gms and their spines are starting to grow. The female ejects them from the pouch and leaves them in the nursery burrow. The female keeps the entrance to the burrow blocked both on leaving and entering the burrow. She may disappear for anywhere between 5 - 10 days before returning to feed the puggles again. The puggles are weaned when they are about 6 ½ mths old and usually weigh about 800 to 1300gms.

This one's name is Quilpie (it's very hard to tell with young echidnas whether they are male or female) and was dug up by earth moving equipment at Collinsville. Quilpie came into care on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Most of the puggles that have come into the care of Fauna Rescue Whitsundays have either been found as a result of earth works or dug up by dogs. We also receive adult Echidnas that have either been hit by cars or attacked by dogs.

Quilpie is currently living in a terracotta pot lined with dirt, inside a tub of dirt in my laundry (the coolest place in the house as they need to be kept at a temperature of about 25C, no greater than 30C) and is fed every 4 -5 days. Quilpie now weighs 430gms and will be relocated to an outside echidna enclosure once on the verge of weaning. Quilpie will stay in care until we are confident that he is foraging for food and then be released at a safer location.

If you do find an echidna in your garden, please leave it alone as it may be a female who is busy foraging for food before returning to feed her puggles. She may be doing you a favour, eating any termites and other bugs she finds in your garden.

Jacqui Webb

**If you do find injured or orphaned wildlife please call the Fauna Rescue Hotline on 4947 3389.**

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CONFERENCE

Being held: July 21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> 2008

Location: Canberra

See [www.nwrc.com.au](http://www.nwrc.com.au) for more info as it becomes available.

This annual event is a great opportunity to hear guest speakers talk on many and varied aspects of caring for Australian native fauna. Fauna Rescue has had one or two members attend the last three conferences. Would you like to attend this year? Want to know more? Please contact Sandy.

### **Message Board:**

Samsung Cooltech dynamic fridge / freezer  
148cm Tall.  
In excellent condition  
\$250.00 ONO  
Ph: Linden 4946 1198

If you are handy with a sewing machine and have some spare time we need wallaby/possum pouches sewn for our carers to use. If you can contribute, please call the Hotline on 4947 3389.

Contribute to our Newsletter !  
Contact Shelley on 0448 635 492 or e-mail [shell22s@yahoo.com](mailto:shell22s@yahoo.com).

### **GROW NATIVE FOOD PLANTS AND HELP OUR WILDLIFE**

All native animals rely on natural food sources to survive. This is especially important for animals that are in our care.

It is very important that captive diets be similar to the natural diet to minimise the impact of captivity and to stimulate normal digestive function. Prior to release animals must have foods included in their diet that will be available to them after release. In fact their diet should be at least 85% natural. Whether you are a carer or not you can help by growing native food plants on your property. In time the plants will produce fruit, foliage, seeds or flowers that can help provide appropriate food for wildlife in our care. You will enjoy the personal satisfaction of knowing you are helping your local native animals and making a positive contribution to our local environment.

**Whitsunday Catchment Landcare is generously offering five food trees to members of Fauna Rescue Whitsundays free of charge.**

**Contact Christine Peterson on 4945 0267 or email:**

[wcl@whitsunday.qld.gov.au](mailto:wcl@whitsunday.qld.gov.au)

### **Hotline Report**

Carmen is taking a break from the phones and rescue work (so please make a note on your rescue sheets), due to new business ventures. I would like to wish Darren & Carmen all the best and thank them both for their endless support of our wildlife, the hotline and myself. Carmen has always been ready to help where she can and rarely said no to covering other peoples days on the roster. Carmen has also been a very good friend to me, one of the advantages of belonging to an organisation such as FR, you meet some wonderful people and form some great friendships. There is now a huge hole to fill in the Airlie Beach area.

A big thankyou to Sue for picking up the Wednesdays on the hotline. This is Sue's preferred day, so if anyone would like to do the Fridays please let me know.

I would like to welcome Marita Lean on board, who has taken on the Tuesdays.

Marita has been a member of Fauna Rescue for some time, mainly helping with some of the fundraising activities and also with the construction of the aviary at my place. Thanks heaps Marita, you have helped out immensely.

Our other latest arrivals on the hotline, Kim & Christine have been dealing with the job brilliantly, keep up the good work girls and thanks again for your help.

Another person who has been helping in the background with the hotline administration is Al McLeod, our database administrator. Al has now designed some new Hotline Summary Sheets and adapted the database so that we can more easily track all the animals that come into care, from the first phone call we receive to their release or other outcome. Thanks Al, we'll get the database even more finely tuned yet!

A gentleman who rang last week with an injured Curlew told me what a great service FR was providing for our wildlife. It's always great to hear positive remarks and hopefully we can ensure that most callers feel this way, whilst assisting the local wildlife.

If any members are able to help on the hotline, please let me know, as quite often we have people away on holidays or even just away for the day. This is the time when we do need people to fill in and, as mentioned earlier, we still need someone for Fridays. We will provide some basic training on 'Hotline Protocol' for anyone who is interested.

Cheers  
Jacqui

**BABY BIRDS**

*"The thrush is in the wattle tree, an' "O, you pretty dear!"*

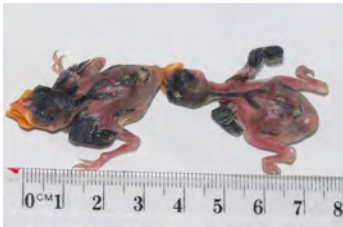
*He's callin' to his little wife for all the bush to hear.*

*He's wantin' all the bush to know about his charmin' hen;*

*He sings it over fifty times, an' then begins again."*

The opening lines to "A Morning Song" by C.J. Dennis. A wonderful poem by an extraordinary poet! Still, it's not just singin' going on in the bush at this time of the year! Love is in the air! Lots of activity on the ground, too as our baby bird carers will tell you!!

Peaceful doves, Figbirds, Kingfishers, Lapwings, Great Bowerbirds, Welcome Swallows, Dusky Honeyeaters, Friarbirds, Woodswallows, Mistletoe birds, all gave us the pleasure of their company and a chance to marvel at the wonders of life. *Tiny, fragile life!*



1/

2/

3/

4/

1/ Two mistletoe-bird chicks found around Airlie, arrived complete with nest. So small. They arrive and you look at them. You don't say anything but it's hard not to think, "No chance!". Then you stick a syringe in their mouth and they eat. Now 3 days In Care. Still a long way to go. Hoping! Hoping!

2/ Just as amazing was the nest they arrived in! Incredible texture! Like a chamois! A very, very soft chamois! According to the book, "...made of plant down matted with cobweb and covered with dried flowers, lichens and insects". Incredible!

3/ On a different note - white-breasted wood-swallows! No problems feeding here!

4/ Same family 3 weeks later!!

*"Oh, it's Mornin'! Singin' Mornin'! in the land I count the best,*

*An' with the heart an' mind of me I'm singin' with the rest."*

Al McLeod ( ...and 'Thank You' C.J. Dennis)

**Important Phone Numbers:**

Queensland Parks & Wildlife: 4946 7022  
3268

Australian Wildlife Rescue Mackay District: 4954

Wildlife Preservation Society: 4785 2969

RSPCA Mackay: 4953 4265

Marine Mammal Stranding Hotline: 1300 130 372

Bee Keeper: Derek Deambrogio: 4945 2346

Whitsunday Shire Council: 4945 0200

Vet: Dr Julie Ruddel: 4946 1028

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare: 4945 0267

Vet: Dr Bill Bowman: 4945 1878

WEARD Health Mackay: 0420 474 000

Met. Dr. Mark Williams: 4946 4634