



Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

Caring for Queensland's Wildlife

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www.frw.org.au/members : members forum

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Gone Batty

Queensland Parks and Wildlife is looking for help to identify and monitor local flying-fox colonies.

Two species of flying-fox can be found in the Whitsunday region. The best-known is the black flying-fox (*Pteropus alecto*) – a permanent resident of the area and the largest of the flying-fox species. At times the nomadic little red flying-fox (*Pteropus scapulatus*) also shows up, often sharing a daytime roosting site with its much larger cousin. Surprisingly little is known about the distribution and abundance of flying-fox populations. Flying-foxes and their relatives are all fruit and nectar feeders. The loss

of food trees and roosting sites due to pastoral clearing and coastal development has raised concerns that some flying-fox species may be in serious trouble. A Statewide flying-fox monitoring project is aiming to monitor the relative distribution and abundance of flying-foxes within Queensland. Anyone who knows the location of a flying-fox colony or thinks they might like to help out can call the local Queensland Parks and Wildlife office on 07 4967 7365.

Peter Sykes - Queensland Parks & Wildlife

Items available for loan:

2 humidicribs 2 heating cords 2 patio aviaries

1 gazebo (suitable for small birds, ground dwelling birds or insectivorous bats)

Various small bird cages

Fauna Rescue library books

Please contact our Treasurer, Le-Anne Dinnie to organise loan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thankyou to everyone who attended the AGM. It was inspiring to see many of our newer members in attendance. I would also like to say thankyou to those who had the confidence in me to vote me in as Fauna Rescue's President. I hope I can live up to your expectations and can continue to contribute to the organization. I would like to also say thankyou to the out-going committee members. Fauna Rescue has achieved so much in the last year that couldn't have been done without your help.

I would like to say thankyou to Maren & Le-Anne for their willingness to re-stand for positions on the committee. Your help has been invaluable in the past and will continue to be an asset to our organization. Welcome to the committee Christine Peterson, Rebecca MacRae and Rebecca Adamson. I look forward to working with you, forging ahead to ensure Fauna Rescue continues to progress in all areas of Wildlife Care and Rehabilitation.

We have several things planned for this year, one of which is a workshop on Mammals, presented by Kim from Wildcare. We have scheduled this for mid – late September so please note that on your calender. We will confirm time and venue as the event gets closer. Kim has also asked if there is anything specific carers would like to learn, so please let me know if you have any suggestions.

Another is the completion of the Raptor enclosure. If you are able to help with a working bee, please give me a call to register your interest. We are nearly at the stage of getting the roof up and will need a few people who are happy to work on ladders and trestles, wiring the mesh to the roof frame. We also need some muscles to help lift the wire up. If you do have any trestles or scaffolding that we could borrow please let me know.

We will also continue with our School & Community Education Project, with 2 events in the pipeline. One for the school children on Hayman Island, (thanks to Rebecca Adamson for offering to do this). The other is yet to be planned for the 121 Childcare Centre.

Just a reminder about the Animal Records. AI has put in a lot of work creating and updating the database and under the Code of Practice, it is a requirement to keep records. Records are also helpful when gathering statistics. For example, we were recently able to contribute figures on animals caught on barb wire fences to some people who are working on the Barb Wire Action Plan. The road kill statistics will also be useful for our Main Roads survey and maybe we may still get those road signs up around the Whitsundays, alerting people to Wildlife on our roads.

We are always looking for more members to help with the hotline, rescues and caring. The more the merrier they say, so please ring me if you think you can help with a few hours. We now have the hotline set up so that the person who is on the hotline can divert to the next person who is rostered on, taking me out of the equation for diverting the phone. For instance, Sue is on the hotline on Wednesday. Sue can divert to Maren on Thursday by following a few simple steps. This will give the people rostered on more flexibility over the times they cover on the phone and maybe more attractive to others who may be happy to do only a few hours rather than 24 hours.

If you do have any suggestions or concerns regarding any aspect of FR please do not to hesitate to call me.

Cheers

Jacqui



thankyou thankyou thankyou thankyou thankyou thankyou



I would like to thank Sue McLeod, our out going President, for her single handed applications for the Biodiversity Levy Grants. Sue applied for and successfully obtained \$2500 towards humidicribs and possum boxes for FRW.

The FRW committee agreed to the purchase of and now has in stock, a Vetario S10 Humidicrib suitable for pinkies, a Brisea Brooder suitable for baby birds or for pinkies. The Vetario was shown and recommended to members at the First Aid for Native Wildlife Course by Kathryn Biber organised by Sue.

There is a supply of possum boxes which are allocated to incoming possums and also an incoming supply of wallaby pouches. These last two items are disposable items, the boxes stay with the possum upon release and the pouches wear out over time.

FRW committee has also purchased two heat cords as shown at the snake workshop with Lana Allcroft. 1 x 15w x 4m heat cord @ \$20, 1 x 25 x 4.3m heat chord @ \$25. These have multiple uses from snake to wallaby.

Any member wanting to have one of these items on loan should contact the committee who will organise for delivery or collection and relevant paperwork to be completed.

Sandy C

Community funds wildlife care...

Injured native wildlife in the Shire are now in even better hands after Fauna Rescue Whitsundays received a grant from the Whitsunday Regional Council to purchase specialist care hot boxes. The project has been funded by the Biodiversity Levy, a \$15 levy on rateable properties, which is used to implement measures which improve, protect, promote and maintain natural resources, biodiversity and the environment in the Shire.

Fauna Rescue Whitsundays applied for a biodiversity grant in the first round of funding applications and were successful for 2 projects which met the criteria for habitat management and education programs.

Project 1 – Biodiversity levy grant has been used to fund the construction of possum nesting boxes by Proserpine High School students which Fauna Rescue can then provide to members of the public who have problems co-existing with possums. Suitable nest boxes can provide an alternative home for possums that reside in houses where they are not welcome! The boxes can also be used when releasing rehabilitated possums back to the wild if habitat trees are unavailable.

Project 2 – Funding was used to purchase a number of specialist care hot boxes which have greatly increased the chances of survival for many sick and injured animals. Many of the animals that come into care require a constant level of warmth. This is particularly difficult to achieve with small furless joeys for which the slightest temperature change can be fatal. Carers are currently forced to use sometimes ineffective sources of heat such as light globes, hot water bottles and electric blankets but this has changed with the purchase of hot boxes that provide a thermostatically regulated constant source of heat. The hot boxes are lent out to volunteer carers and are an invaluable resource in assisting in the rehabilitation and release of wildlife. Fauna Rescue Whitsundays sincerely thanks the Whitsunday Regional Council for their generous assistance in funding these projects.



THE REALITY OF BEING A WILDLIFE CARER

By Sue Ulyatt

You receive the call, a wallaby has been hit on the road, a live joey is in the pouch, can you come and collect it?

As you get to the site of the accident and reach into the pouch, your heart sinks, it is such a young joey, but not too young to give it the chance of life that it deserves. You take it home, measure and weigh the little creature and as first thought, it is really too young, you know it, but you have promised the people at the accident site and yourself, that you will give it every chance.

The joey is still warm, it did not have time to go cold, that gives it an even better chance. If the joey had been cold, you know it would have been a lost battle from the start, being so young.

First feed is a breeze, it is drinking well, sucking on the teat like nothing has changed in its short life, the pouch still smells of Mum, you rubbed it on Mum's body before placing the joey inside. All is well.

The voice inside your head is yelling at you, do not get attached, do not get your hopes up, you know its chances are very small, but you know all that and tell the voice to be quiet. Next feed is the same, all is fine, drinks like a trooper, and he is being fed every three hours. Being so small he must not get too large an amount of formula in his tiny stomach, he is used to feeding on demand with his natural mother.

Next feed again...great. We are so lucky now that there is a formula available that gives us the opportunity to save a joey this size, as before it would have been impossible. The first day goes well, he is in the humidicrib. The feed at 2am is the one where all the negative thoughts come back, you start to examine the reasons why you are doing this, is it for yourself or is it for the animal's sake? The house is still; you only have the voice in your head and the joey sucking contentedly. You come to the conclusion that it is probably a little bit of both, can you do this? Can the animal keep the will to live? If it gives up, who is at fault? The thoughts come racing in. He has finished feeding; you clean him up, put emollient on his tiny body so his tender skin won't dry up, change his pouch and place him back into the humidicrib. You go back to bed.

Each time you open the pouch, you take a deep breath, the joey could be dead. It has happened so many times before. You do not know what may have happened to him in the accident; the bruising does not show immediately even on such a small animal. So far so good, there's no bruising showing. The joey is breathing easy; you give it its next feed.

Day 2: In between feeding this little mite the other joeys in care are being fed. Grass and eucalypt branches are collected, as they love to browse. All is well in the nursery pen. The ones outside get the last feed at 11pm, and then it is like the day is over, but not for the tiny one in the humidicrib. The day does not end, it just keeps going. The next day follows well before this day seems to have ended.

Day 3: The 5am feed is not what you expected; he will not open his tiny mouth. You cannot force it open; his skin is too delicate should you try. So you wait. The milk is spilled onto his lips in the hope he may smell it and will want it. He does not. You put him back in the humidicrib and wait. An hour passes. You try again. This time he does open his mouth and drinks, not quite as well as previously, but he does drink the required amount. You breathe easy again. The voice in your head is still telling you not to get attached, you know what you can expect, and you dismiss it and tell it to go away.

It is almost time to feed the ones outside, so may as well do that now, bed is looking good but then you will have to get up shortly and feed them so do it now. By the time you have finished the outside ones, it is too late to go to bed, the morning is well in progress, sleep can wait.

Next feed is good, the joey is drinking fine again, he is once again cleaned and emollient is again put over his body, a new pouch at every feed so as to stop him getting any bacteria, then back into the humidicrib.

Day 4: Your day goes like the one before, only at 12pm feed you open the pouch....all is ready. The syringe with the teat attached is warm waiting for the tiny creature to have his fill....you open the pouch...only this time he is no more.

(Reproduced with permission of Sue Ulyatt)

MEMO BOARD

MAMMAL WORKSHOP

Date to be announced..... presented by Wildcare. Venue and time to be advised.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - CAREERS MARKET - PROSERPINE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

We are currently seeking members who can help with a Careers Market at the school, Tuesday 12th August, 2008 between 12pm - 3.30pm. The Careers market is designed to showcase career opportunities, study options and support services at all levels of employment and further study. The aim is to facilitate career decision-making by providing quality care information for secondary students, their parents and the general public. Please contact Jacqui Webb or Rebecca MacRae if you are able to help

Letter from the website editor.....

The Fauna Rescue web site has moved. To better reflect the name "Fauna Rescue Whitsundays" , the url is now www.frw.org.au

The old site www.fauna-rescue-gld.org.au is still there but it will redirect you to the new site.

Also there is now a Member's Forum www.frw.org.au/members/

This is for FRW members only and to access it you have to have a user name and password.

Members can join by going to the above address and registering or by contacting me.

On the forum we hope to have available a list of property so that members can see if there is something available e.g. shadecloth, aviaries, star pickets etc before they spend their own money.

Also members can upload photos, tell us about the fauna they have in care or just chat in general.

Hopefully members will use this extra facility.

Gerry O'Connor
Web Editor