



Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

Caring for Queensland's Wildlife

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Newsletter Issue 43 October/November 2008

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

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PROSERPINE ROCK WALLABIES

I received a call from Nigel, (he quite often brings me injured wildlife). He had a wallaby that had taken refuge in his house and shed overnight. Apparently he had startled the animal when he went into the shed and it had hopped through the house, sat on the edge of the spa for a while and then made it's way back to the shed. He could see no injuries at all. Maybe something had spooked it during the night and it had taken shelter in his shed. As I was working the day I advised him to keep his old dog inside and leave the shed door open in the hope the wallaby would move out of it's own accord. Nigel rang me back later in the day to say the wallaby was going nowhere, mind you most wallabies are quite inactive during the day, so we decided I would call in after work to take a look. Also the late afternoon would be a better time to move the wallaby on as they do start to come out at dusk to feed. As we ushered it out of the shed, it hopped out, stopped for a few moments to look at me and then hopped around the corner of the house. Imagine my surprise when I saw it was a Proserpine Rock Wallaby! My first sighting of a real live, healthy, endangered PRW and I have lived in the area now for 11 years!

I contacted Peter and John at QPWS and we decided to go and have a look around, to see if Nigel's property did have PRW habitat there. We agreed to meet Nigel on the Wednesday morning so the guys could have a chat to him, then proceeded to look for further evidence of any PRWs inhabiting the area. We spent a good couple of hours hiking around on the hill behind Nigels, but the conclusion was that the habitat is not really suitable for a permanent PRW colony, not enough rocky habitat for them to live and hide in. We presume that this may have been a young male, kicked out by older males from the known PRW habitat across the road. Nigel will continue to keep a lookout for his overnight visitor and let us know if he is sighted again. That's 2 PRW's in 1 week! Luckily Nigel's wallaby didn't need to come into care, but the first wallaby I was called out to was in a bad way. Maren received a call on the hotline from a lady at Strathdickie who had what she thought to be a PRW that had taken up residence behind her shed and was concerned about its health. Kiri and I went to have a look, armed with nets and bags. The animal hopped in behind some timber leaning up against the shed so we were able to corner and capture her quite easily. She was dehydrated, lethargic and missing the end of her tail, definitely no white tip on the end to give away the fact she was a PRW. She also had a break further up the tail. So it was off to visit John (QPWS) to confirm identification and then off to the Vets. She was given antibiotics, fluids and anti-inflammatories. Rosie, is now in good hands with Judith and doing well at this stage. She is still on treatment, her wounds have been cleaned and dressed and she is eating, drinking and pooping just fine. If she does pull through and is unable to be released, she will probably go into the breeding programme at Fleay's. Time will tell.

by Jacqui Webb

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello All,

I hope you're enjoying the spring weather. I just love this time of the year. Warmth, sunshine and a little rain to keep everything green. The wildlife are more active now and my property is a hive of life, birds preparing to nest, wallabies grazing in my back paddock and butterflies flitting around the garden. It really is the best place for a coffee as the sun is rising in the morning! I've had quite a few exciting things happen recently, dealing with two Proserpine Rock Wallabies in one week and finding a Flying Fox Colony not far from my place. Linden also had a juvenile Rufous Owl in recently, but luckily he was able to be re-united with his parents. Please remember if you do know of any of these animals whereabouts, as well as Quolls, please either send me the details or contact Peter Sykes at QPWS. The committee would like to thank Lola Mudie and Sandy Cleland for hosting the last two **Carer's Coffee & Chats**. These social get togethers are proving quite successful, enjoyed by all and be assured there will be more of these events to come. If you would like to host one at your place please let the committee know. FRW recently hosted the **Caring for Mammals Workshop** conducted by Laura Reeder from Wildcare. We had a total of 28 attending. Thankyou to everyone who gave up their Sunday to attend, including Heidi from Mackay and the girls from Bowen and Collinsville. A huge thankyou to Laura for flying all the way from Brisbane and delivering an informative, entertaining workshop. Laura also for dropped her trainer's fee, saving us extra costs for the course. Unfortunately her limelight was stolen by one of Rebecca Barwell's babies. Special thanks to all who helped organize the day, in particular, Le-Anne for organizing the flight and Laura's transportation, Bec Adamson, Barb Adamson and Maren for the wonderful catering and Barb McLennan for entertaining us afterwards with a visit to her property, wine and the chance to meet her babies and have a look at her new enclosure. I would like to say thanks to Cathie and Bec for transporting the echidna, **Quilpie**, (you will probably remember Quilpie's story from previous a previous newsletter story), to Collinsville for release, along with a Grey Roo and Black-Striped Wallaby that went to Carol. The girls made the most of the trip by organizing to get together with Carol Consentino our Bowen/Collinsville Co-ordinator and some of the other ladies from that area. They had a lovely day and enjoyed meeting those carers. We have yet again been involved in more **PetPep** programmes, as part of our School & Community Education Programme. Thanks to Bec A & Di for attending these. We do have 2 more planned, one for October and another for November. Bec has put a lot of time and effort into designing some wonderful wildlife friendly worksheets for the kids to take home at the end of their talk. Well done Bec! Thankyou, too, to Col Forster for putting together a slide show of some of the animals we have had in care to use for this programme. FRW was also invited to attend the **Careers Market** at Proserpine State School. Lesley Knight & Louisa Lumby hosted this display, promoting FRW and giving advise to the students on career options involving wildlife. Thankyou girls, reports tell me it was a great day. Speaking of people putting their valuable time and effort into the cause Bec A has also been busy organising **Wildlife Signs** for strategic areas in the Shire. These will have our hotline number on them for anyone finding injured wildlife. We hope to have these up soon, so keep your eyes open for them. Also on the subject of **Road signs**, I am still collecting data on behalf of QWRC for the main roads survey and would still like to put in a report for our local council on the by roads. I still need help with this as I am unable to collect the data needed on the by roads, which are covered by the council. The only ones I can do on a regular basis are between Proserpine and Airlie Beach, as I travel to work, so if you can help with this please let me know and I can send you the forms. For those of you already collecting the data I do need this info by the end of each month please. There has been a change to our **Animal Record Keeping System**. On behalf of the committee, the carers and the critters, thankyou to Al McLeod, for creating such an excellent database for FRW to work with over the last few years. It has worked better than I ever anticipated. At Al's recommendation we are now moving on to a web-based system, directly available to you via our members section on the FRW website. This will enable our Animal Records to be up to date all the time (dependant on carers imputing their data). Gerry has been working tirelessly, with the help of Peter Richards who designed the Longrass Records system to get this up and running. Most of you who do care for animals and/or help on the hotline should have been sent passwords to access the site. I strongly urge all members to go in and have a look at this site, use it and offer any opinions to help improve the site. If anyone needs further information or advice on this system please feel free to contact either myself or Gerry. For those of you who are unable to access the internet, please continue to send your records to the FRW post box, for entry into the database. Gerry is also still looking for photos and articles for our website, as is Shelley for the newsletters, so if you have any hints and tip to share or stories to tell please let them know. Also, don't forget to keep an eye on our website and join the members forum on the members page. This is just another tool enabling you to keep in touch with everyone else within the organization. FRW has also been invited to have input on the Draft Proserpine Rock Wallaby Recovery Plan. The committee is currently formulating a response and will have it in by the due date on November 24th. If anyone is interested in adding any comments please let me know as soon as possible. We are planning to hold a General Meeting on November 22nd. Keep an eye on your email or mail box for further info. Well, it's nearly that other time of the year again, Christmas, and the committee is once again in the throes of organising our **Christmas Raffle**. Please let us know if you are able to help with the selling of tickets on the stall or donations of goods towards the barrow and hamper. We will need all offers of help and donations in by November 22nd, at the General Meeting.

That's all for now folks, keep up your good work!

Cheers, Jacqui.

ECHIDNA WATCH

Have you seen an echidna lately? Wildlife Queensland's Echidna Watch program is gathering information on the distribution and abundance of echidnas in your area – and we'd like your help. The only species of echidna in Queensland, and Australia – the short-beaked echidna – is one of our most loved and unique animals. With a distribution that extends from Tasmania to the Top End, this ambling adventurer can be found anywhere from the outback to the backyard. We know that echidnas don't cope well with traffic and sadly become roadkill. But we need to know the real extent of the damage that cars cause to echidna numbers. How well do echidnas cope with other modern hazards such as ant baits, fences and introduced pests, such as fire ants (see [Living with Wildlife](#))? www.wildlife.org.au If you have seen an echidna, please complete the online [survey form](#) www.wildlife.org.au or print out a hard copy and mail or fax the completed form to Wildlife Queensland. It's that simple.

Memo Board

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.

Needed

Donations of drinks for our wheelbarrow of booze and goodies for our Christmas Hamper by November 22nd.
Please contact your closest committee member to organize delivery of your donations.

Wanted - Carers

Spring is in the air and all the local critters are working on making even more critters! That means more babies coming in to care and more adults not paying as much attention as they should to their surroundings as they are too pre-occupied!
If your circumstances have changed and you feel you may be able to help with caring or even just collecting native foods for critters in care, please contact the species co-ordinator.

Wanted - Release Sites

FRW is in desperate need of more release sites for possums and macropods.
Essential Criteria needed:

- Permanent water
- Plentiful food sources
- Not already over-populated with wildlife
- No feral dog or cat problems

Centro Shopping Centre Management, in conjunction with Pets Paradise Super Store Management, have kindly organised Santa to be available for photos with Pets on 10th & 17th December from 2pm-4pm. Photos will be \$5 and the proceeds are being donated to Fauna Rescue Whitsundays.

Cheers, Jacqui

If you think your property has the above, please contact either Cathie or Bec for wallabies & roos or Lynne for possums

FAUNA RESCUE WHITSUNDAYS-----NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

Where: Queensland Parks and Wildlife Building Jubilee Pocket

When: Saturday 22nd November 2008

Time: 12 pm Lunch (Please bring a plate) 12.30 p.m. Meeting commences

N.B. If you would like an item included on the Agenda please contact Sue: largoimn@optusnet.com.au phone 0428 112267

Jacqui: jacqui.webb@bigpond.com phone 4947 3308 or 0427 176 966

UNWANTED CATS AND DOGS IN QUEENSLAND

On 8 June 2008, the Premier announced new strategies to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs in Queensland. An overview of these can be found at: <http://statements.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=58558>

The strategies were developed following close consultation with the Queensland community, including more than 5300 submissions to a discussion paper, and advice from two independent experts. The independent experts were Dr Linda Marston of the Animal Welfare Science Centre, Monash University; and Professor Jacquie Rand of the University of Queensland. Their reports include reviews of the public submissions, analysis of relevant scientific literature, interviews with key stakeholders in Queensland and interstate, and a detailed review of desexing and early-age desexing as tools to reduce unwanted breeding. Due to the high level of interest in the strategies and the content of the reports, the Queensland government is pleased to release the reports to the public. They are available on the website of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, at: http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xml/4790_6430_ENA_HTML.htm

Workshop 'Introduction to Caring for Orphaned Mammals'

On Sunday September 21st, Fauna Rescue members and friends gathered at QPWS in Jubilee Pocket for a workshop. The workshop an 'Introduction to Caring for Orphaned Mammals' was presented by Laura Reeder from Wildcare. This workshop was another event fully funded by a donation last year from the Whitsunday Lions Club towards animal welfare in the Whitsundays.

Everyone who attended came away with a better knowledge and understanding of caring for our precious wildlife.

Those who attended were provided with a CD, Introduction to Caring for Orphaned Mammals, Animal Rescue and Examination Forms and Product Information. The material contained on the CD is subject copyright to Wildcare.

Lunch was organised by Bec with help from Maren and Barbara. Registration was done by our treasurer Le-Anne and Le-Anne, Rebecca with Jacqui set up the room.

After the workshop Laura and members drove to Barbie McLennan's home to see her new compounds. Barbie now has a small grassed area for her littlies and two larger areas for the bigger wallabies. It is an ideal set up keeping her domestic animals completely away from her native animals.



Peter Acker with an agile wallaby, Betty Gordon with her agile wallaby, Pahlia Adamson with another Agile and back at Barbie's.

A great day was had by all, Sandy C.

Wanted - Your Wildlife Photos

FRW has created a new position, that of Photo Co-ordinator and Sandy Cleland has kindly accepted this role. Sandy will collect and be responsible for photos on behalf of the organisation. These can then be used for newspaper articles, displays and workshops etc. So if you have some great photos of wildlife in your care, please forward to Sandy. Your name will be referenced on your photo. Alternatively, if you would like Sandy to organize to take some photos the FRW Photo Library of your animals please contact her to organize a suitable time. Email: sandyc@bordnet.com.au Phone: 4947 3324

Coffee & Chat hosted by Sandy Cleland Sunday 14th October.

Ten people attended. It was an enjoyable morning. Bec showed her newly made electric blanket heat bag and pouches. Sandy modelled her embroidered FRW logo T Shirt. Any member can drop a shirt into Embroidery Plus, see phone book, asking for the colour FRW logo, when a few are together Wilf will embroider, \$12.50 per logo. Sandy also showed the black and white screen printed shirt. For these we have the screen, the ink and the squeegees these would need to be done as a project. Stuffed toys and puppets are used at the Schools to help educate the children about our native animals. Hand puppets and native animals were donated for the toy bag. An enormous hard book was shown to the group, it contained Australian native animals. Bec will take to the next committee meeting a suggestion that FRW purchase one for the school talks if they are still available. Bec and Di attended St Catherine's and talked to 100 little students last Thursday 11th September, as part of the Pet Pep program. Col put together a computer show of birds Di had raised. The nodding heads of the figbirds were a delight for the children. Bec had been busy making some games with markers of native animals for the talk. Bec left one for the children in the library at St Catherine's. Bec showed the color in sheets and other activity items she plans to use for the different age groups, all kept neatly in a folder for future reference for use at the schools & kinders. There was chat about the differences between possum and wallabies how wallabies appear content to stay in their pouches. The Xmas Wheelbarrow Raffle, the permits required etc., set up sites, getting items to fill the barrow, were all discussed. We were entertained by a couple of Ulysses butterflies and a couple of male Cairns Birdwings which put on quite a show. We discussed the various trees and vines they prefer.

I hope those who attended had as good a morning as I did.

Sandy C.

My "QUACKERS" a Plummed Whistling Duck

I was phoned and asked if I could help out with two little ducklings whose other six siblings had been killed by a dog. There was no mention of mum so suppose she met the same fate. It was a new experience for me raising tiny ducklings.

As far as identifying the ducklings I looked up on line the Carer's Kit on the EPA website.

http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature_conservation/wildlife/caring_for_wildlife/carers_kit/birds/identification

They were two plummed whistling ducklings weighing in at 19grams and 25 grams. Ok next was to find somewhere warm for them so yes Geoff's car light with the surround looked good, I tried to paint the globe but that was a dismal failure. The two little mites were fine in the hotbox lined with newspaper with the light hanging and their food and water over the other side. I rigged up a feather duster which they huddled under. That night the weaker one unfortunately died. The remaining one missed its friend. I tried to find other similar duckling but to no avail. I tried to get some day old chicks to keep it company but they were all older than a day and were miles too big. So I decided a few mirrors might do the trick, to my surprise they worked perfectly, the little mite chatted and chatted away to the mirrors. I eventually took it off the heat during the day and put it into a playpen lined with shade cloth caught catydid and grasshoppers by the dozen for it which it ate with relish I chopped up spinach, chicken kibble, insectivour, pinch calcium powder and made a mush, a separate bowl of fresh water for drinking and later as he grew another one a pot plant saucer to paddle around in. At night I put it into a small aviary that was snake proof with its bowls, mirrors and feather duster placing a hand full of moving tucker in for it to catch and it was safe till the morning then back into its playpen. This all worked extremely well and I would love to have seen it grow, I only had it for a short while as I was off to the States to look after my beautiful granddaughter. I passed Quackers onto Cathy at 38 grams who said he grew up quickly and she released him at a dam near her place where they were others of his kind.



Sandy C.

As Good As It Gets

How good is the care provided by Fauna Rescue Whitsundays carers? It's that good that healthy wild animals appear to be checking themselves in for a bit of pampering!

We have been caring for three Rainbow Lorikeets. Scatty, mauled by a dog, Friendly with an eye problem, and Stumpy, somehow, rump plucked. All three are housed in 2 large adjoining cages. The cages are full of sticks, ropes and leaves to create an activity centre for birds that can't fly. Of course an assortment of healthy food and fresh water is also provided.

In the morning these cages are placed on the balcony. Whilst they are cleaned and the morning smorgasbord is arranged they are separated. On this morning when I looked back there were 2 lorikeets in each cage. I counted it out on my fingers: one, Stumpy, two, Friendly and three, Scatty – three. But a quick check confirmed that there were definitely 4. A wild Lorikeet had admitted himself and was very happy helping himself to all on offer.

The night before we had been discussing the release of Scatty and Friendly, Stumpy wasn't mentioned as he is definitely not ready. Friendly seemed ready for release but one previous attempt had failed; the bird simply didn't want to go. We were unsure about Scatty. This bird stressed in captivity and we were keen to see it on its way. Scatty was in the cage with the interloper and when I opened the cage door it was very apparent who was keen to leave. See ya Scatty! We then released Friendly to join Scatty and in time the wild bird also left. Poor Stumpy is left on his own but we are fairly confident he is well cared for!

Di Jessop

Important Phone Numbers:

Queensland Parks & Wildlife: 4946 7022	Australian Wildlife Rescue Mackay District: 4954 3268
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
Aust Wildlife Rescue, Mackay 4954 3268.	Vet: Dr. Mark Williams: 4946 1631

**FAUNA RESCUE OF QLD ASSOCIATION INC
WHITSUNDAYS
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS
\$3 each**

PRIZES DONATED BY OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES & FRW MEMBERS

**1ST PRIZE - WHEELBARROW FULL OF BOOZE
2ND PRIZE – HAMPER**

***All proceeds go towards helping our Native Wildlife.
Raffle drawn, 20th December 2008.***

***Please sell the tickets below and return to the Secretary by 14th December, 2008.
Thankyou.***

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

• Please return money and tickets by Friday 14th December to:

The Secretary, PO Box 806, Cannonvale. 4802