



Newsletter 57

March 2011

**Fauna Rescue Whitsundays
Association Inc.**

P.O. Box 806 Cannonvale 4802
Hotline: 07 4947 3389— ABN 60 931 156 282



It's a Quoll

Tuesday the 15th February dawned as any other Tuesday; it was my day to man the Fauna Rescue Hotline as well as babysitting my granddaughter, Mackenzie.

A couple of the usual calls and then a call from a MOP wanting to know what Echidna droppings looks like???? I thought it wouldn't be a outstanding day but was soon proved wrong.

2pm, a call from Main St. Café in Proserpine. Megan stated that they felt that a Bandicoot or Possum had run under their drinks fridge's in the front of the shop. I rang the possum SLO to ask who she suggested to send on the rescue. As Miranda Martin works in Main St., and has a flexible employer, it was suggested to ring her to see if she was available. She was going out to do the banking shortly so would check the animal out whilst she was up the street. An excited Miranda rang back and informed me that the animal was a Quoll, neither Bandicoot or Possum as previously thought.

A plan to catch the animal was put in place. No attempt could be made till after the shop closed at 5pm, when the roller doors could be shut down to close the avenues of escape - the road. Miranda suggested that we needed a carrier and some more people to aid in the rescue. I contacted Leigh Skead to see if she could meet Miranda and myself at Main St at 5pm. On arrival; - Leigh with a borrowed pet carrier from the vet, a cardboard roll from the middle of a fabric roll, a pair of welding gloves, and a couple of pair of heavy duty protection gloves and a male friend in tow. Myself with a towel and a empty beer carton. Roller Doors down me standing on the lip of the door as it kept popping up. The men moved the fridges from the wall a little.

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See Pg 10

Thank you:

JAN JARRATT'S OFFICE
printing of hard copies

It's a Quoll Cont.

Leigh tried to encourage the quoll, with the cardboard roll, down behind the last fridge trying to get it to run into the eatery area of the café as it had doors that could be closed. After several attempts success at last. It ran into the eatery - Doors closed - three persons inside plus cage, gloves and towel.

The little fellow was very scared. It ran around the room jumping from chairs and table with Miranda and towel in pursuit. Finally it was under the towel and placed in the cage.

I had interrupted Linden at work, earlier, to seek her assistance with the Quoll. So I delivered him to her house and left him with Jim. On arriving home Linden checked it out and declared it a young 'Northern Quoll' in good health yet objecting to captivity. She rang Peter Sykes QPWS for advice.

The Quoll was re-released into a water course near Proserpine the next day.

This demonstrates how Fauna Rescue works as a team for our local wildlife.

Words Lola, Photos Linden



'an attractive animal with many sharp teeth'

Quolls

Precis of a Department of the Environment and Heritage factsheet

Most of Australia was inhabited by at least one of the four species of quoll; Northern, Spotted-tailed, Eastern, and Western. Captain Cook recorded 'quoll' as their local Aboriginal name. They were often seen by early settlers and referred to as 'native cat'. All species have declined dramatically in numbers due to habitat loss and change, and introduced predators such as foxes and cats.

Quolls are carnivorous marsupials with a pointed snout, a long tail and brown to black fur distinctively spotted with white. They are lively, attractive animals, with bright eyes, a moist pink nose and many sharp teeth.

The Spotted-tailed Quoll eats birds, reptiles and mammals such as bandicoots, possums, echidnas and rabbits. The smaller quolls eat mainly insects, birds, frogs, lizards, snakes, small mammals and fruit. Quolls also eat carrion, and sometimes scavenge.

Quolls are mainly active at night, and spend the day in one of their dens. Spotted-tailed and Northern Quolls sometimes forage and bask in the sunshine.

The Spotted-tailed Quoll *Dasyurus maculatus* is the largest native carnivore left on mainland Australia. It lives in forest, woodland and dense coastal heathland and is now uncommon across most of its range. The small Queensland subspecies is nationally endangered and the larger south-eastern subspecies is listed as nationally vulnerable.

The Northern Quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus* once occurred across northern Australia. It is now most common in rocky, sparsely vegetated areas and open woodlands within 50 kilometres of the coast. The smallest of the quolls (about the size of a large kitten), it has grey-brown to brown fur with large white spots, and an unspotted tail. It is the most tree-based of the four quolls, and its diet includes small mammals, reptiles, worms, ants, termites, moths, honey and soft fruit. Northern Quolls, generally solitary and nocturnal, make their den in a rock crevice, tree hole or, occasionally, a termite mound.

In 2003, some Northern Quolls were transferred to several islands off the coast in the Northern Territory, to establish secure populations as a precautionary measure, while the impacts of cane toads on quoll populations are further studied.



A head only a mother could love!

We (Di) have raise many birds now. We realize one of the most important factors is that they should not be raised in isolation. Multiples do much better than singles, particularly when it comes time to feed themselves and then again at release.

Our latest soft release was a friarbird brought up alone. It was a delight to bring up; not presenting any problems but when release time came around Di was on tender hooks. The last one she released went out, had a look around and then 'whoosh' it was taken by a bird of prey – all that work – poor bird – poor Di, she was devastated.

Anyway release day dawned foruhm, it didn't even get a name, and off it went. Both of us were watching – not to see it taken, just to keep an eye on it. After about 2 hours the stress got too much for us and it was captured and imprisoned. Enough stress for one day!

The following day it was released again and monitored. It came back at dusk and was not keen on being imprisoned overnight but that was its fate. The next day it was released and it stayed out overnight. This continued for several days and then it rained.

It rained at dusk - roosting time if you're a bird. Proper tropical rain. It was dark when we heard activity on the balcony and there was an agitated *no name*. It put up a fight, it didn't want to be captured, but it was. Once in the cage it immediately settled for the night.

During *no names* release Di had multiple figbirds in a cage on the balcony and the friarbird just came in and helped itself to the food at figbird feeding times. We resorted to feeding the figbirds inside in the morning to deny *no name* a morning feed but by mid morning it was demanding food. The situation got worse; when visitors arrived *no name* flew in and landed on them. We had to stop using the balcony. Instead of becoming more self reliant it was becoming even more



imprinted (I'm a human – food comes from humans). After a month we were becoming really concerned that this bird would ever find its place in nature. Then one day it just didn't come in the morning – stress – snake? bird of prey? We were relieved to see it at lunch time. Since that day things have improved dramatically.

Anyway, we took some photos tonight because the visits are becoming less frequent and some time soon they will stop all together which is as it should be.

And after all it is kind of cute,.... ah, Di said that!

And after all it is kind of cute!

Col

Worms

Remember the article in Newsletter 55 about worming? Who has wormed themselves?

Food, Food, Food

Lots has been happening on the food front lately. Firstly we have a new agreement in place with Coles Cannonvale whereby we have access to fruit and veg that they discard. This means that we have fruit and veg available on an irregular basis so if you have critters that eat these things contact Barb A, Linden, or Jacqui to see what is in the larder. Linden and Barb are also drying some of the excess.

The arrangement is also good news for Linden and FRW as we have been breeding insects. When I say we, FRW acquired the insect stock and Linden does all the hard work. She has them breeding successfully. The amount of food the insects consume was becoming a problem and the arrangement with Coles has alleviated this. Thus Lindens note:



'I have Bugs'

For those carers needing live mealworms, woodies (cockroaches) or crickets to feed their animals in care, please phone me on 4946 1198 as I am now breeding all of the above.



At present these are being supplied to members at no cost. Linden has also been freezing some in case of later lean times and for those that don't fancy handling the creepy crawlies.

It just gets better; Not only is she breeding them but has managed to barter them for other items of produce including the Bran required for the mealworms.

Allied to the food there are some other goodies as well:

Free to good home

Fauna Rescue has a variety of goods that have been donated to us. We are passing them on to carers who require them.

I have a large amount of medical supplies: syringes, needles, bandages, antiseptics, eye droppers, plastic tweezers, swabs and dressings and more.

Borrow/Loan

For those of you just starting out or who have need of temporary housing (for animals) FRW may be able to help. We have some cages Terrariums etc available to borrow.

Contact Linden

President's Report, Feb 2011

Wow, what a welcome we & our poor wildlife have had to 2011. Floods & cyclones in Qld, floods also affecting the southern states, bushfires & cyclones in WA, and then to top it all off, the devastating earthquake in NZ. I sincerely hope that Mother Nature will be kinder to us for the rest of the year. What is marvelous though is how Australians have pulled together to help their neighbors and strangers through these tragedies and massive cleanups afterwards. We would like all of those who have been affected by these disasters to know that we are thinking of them. Qld Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (QWRC) still has funding available should any carers need assistance with facilities, food stocks etc post cyclone & flooding.

Well, Cyclone Yasi has definitely affected the Nth Qld wildlife, habitat and food sources have been destroyed not only for endangered wildlife such as Cassowaries & Mahogany Gliders, but also many of the more common nectar and fruit eaters have been severely affected too. I have had reports (wearing my QWRC hat) of many birds, not normally ground dwellers hunting for food on the ground, flying foxes and birds with broken bones and baby birds and bats separated from their families. Carers between Townsville and Cairns have been inundated with mainly birds and bats. International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), with the assistance of Far North Qld Wildlife Rescue and Wildcare have been doing a marvelous job of dealing with the post cyclone waifs as well as the set up of feeding stations for local wildlife. They are trying to ensure also that if members of the public are feeding animals at the moment, it is being done correctly with appropriate foods being supplemented. A nesting box program is also in place to help to restore some habitat for the Mahogany Gliders, so if any of you are interested in building some boxes to donate to this program please give me a call or email and I can forward on the details.

Speaking of Mahogany Gliders, FRW was able to assist one of the North Qld carers who had fled the cyclone with animals in care and was traveling home. Daryl needed a place to stop for the night, giving herself, her partner and the animals a rest and stretch in an aviary. Barb Adamson, who had been staying with her daughter during the cyclone, kindly offered her home, cages and aviary, which Daryl gratefully accepted. We sincerely hope that Daryl, her property and animals have recovered and that habitat in the area will restore in time and her animals will be released.

I also have a dilemma thanks to Cyclone Yasi, sending 3 Torresian Pigeons to Cairns. Normally I would release them here, but fear for their survival as once they reach the Tully, Mission Beach area there will be no food for them as they migrate North. The bird carer in Cairns has kindly offered to take them and flock them with others in care there for pre release, but I would like to find someone who is traveling from here to Cairns to transport them as am loathe sending via transport companies. Please let me know if you know of anyone willing to help.

The committee has been busy working on a number of items this year.

I would like to start with our end of year workshop, Native Food Identification presented by Christine Peterson. Many thanks to Christine, who shared a lot of her knowledge with us on the local native plants which provide food for our wildlife. This was followed by our Christmas Lunch, gourmet pizzas made by Jim & Linden. Thank you to you both for opening up your home to these events and our members. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the scrumptious pizzas. It was a shame that many members were not able to attend, but good for those of us there as we got to eat more pizza!! We ran our first New Members Orientation for the year last weekend, but there is more on this further in the newsletter.

I would also like to thank Barb A & Linden who made some yummy presents to give to the Vets for Christmas. Each year FRW gives the Vets a little Christmas gift to thank them for their assistance to us and the wildlife during the year. Feedback from the Vets was that they were very yummy!

President's Report, Feb 2011 cont.

The committee has been working on a Business Plan, which will assist us when applying for grants and funding. Thanks for your hard work on this one Col. The update to the Policy & Procedures manual will be reviewed after each AGM, so we ask members to submit suggestions to the committee by the end of March. We have been updating and numbering all FRW forms, which will be stored in the committee section of our website, as well as hard copy with Secretary. Our Rescue & Rehabilitation Permit Renewal has been completed and sent to DERM.

We have recently submitted 2 grant applications, one to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for items to assist with our School & Community Education Project and the other with the Jupiter's Casino Community Benefit Fund for funding for workshops. We are also currently looking to apply for funding for a portable release aviary suitable for possums and gliders.

We have sent a letter to Bunnings, requesting permission to hold a sausage sizzle and display on a regular basis. We really would like to find some volunteers to assist with this so please let one of our committee members know if you are interested in helping and/or organising.

We already have one PetPep presentation lined up for April as well as a presentation to the Cannonvale Day Care in March. We have had 2 stories in local papers this year, another in the Little Red Book and one will also be in City Life Magazine, hopefully next issue. These are great ways to continue to promote our organization through public awareness and hopefully to attract some new members and find more release sites.

For the carers, we also now have Ivomec (worming syrup) in stock, as well as vaccinations for wallabies and possums, so please contact Linden for further info on these.

As FRW will be 10 years old this April, we have decided that we will hold a celebration BBQ after the AGM in May. All members welcome, details will be issued closer to the date.

Well that's all for now,

Cheers, Jacqui

Corza



I want to thank Christ'l and Conrad Wagemakers for their amazing gesture.

They are probably our newest carers and they built a release aviary for possums on their beautiful property. The first possum I sent to them for release was a guy called Corza and after going through the wait about 4 weeks and then open the door. These great people rang and said it is time to let him go would you like to come over and open his cage door. This was so thoughtful and I have attached the moment of seeing the world for the first time for one of my well loved babies, now all grown up. Thank you Christ'l and Conrad just for being really nice people, let there be a dozen more people like you sign up with our group.



Barb Adamson - Possum & Glider SLO

Profile of a New Member - Matt Sleeth

At time of writing Matt was our newest member and I interviewed him after the latest NMOW. First I have to tell you that I know a little about Matt as both he and I are casual employees of Whitsunday Crocodile Safaris (Crocs / Jac and Steve Watson are one of our few corporate members and put on a great show!). Between the normal seasonal slowdown, the high Au\$, the GFC, and the perception (both here and overseas) that all of Queensland is flooded and/or destroyed by cyclones work at Crocs has been very casual lately. So the obvious first question is so what else are you doing?



Well, you know about Crocs. I'm also working at Evolutions Niteclub. Me and a mate are also working on a project. 'Sloth n Pebo's guide to Airlie Beach' which is a pocket size guide book on

Airlie covering everything; accommodation, restaurants, bars/clubs, all boat tours everything.

So tell us a bit about how you ended up here in Airlie.

I moved to Airlie just over a year ago now, and I came up because I wasn't really progressing with anything. I'm the youngest of 4 and on the advice of my sister, who lived on Hamilton for 3 years, I came up here to become a Dive Instructor. That didn't work out too well because at the time there wasn't much work going anyway, but crocs wasn't a bad back up. I don't know how long I'm going to stay here for but I feel a need to help out with any conservation group that I can. As if it's an addiction I suppose.

I know you have a passion for reptiles so what about your background?

My hometown is Warrandyte the 'green wedge' of Melbourne, but my other home was Richmond City. I'm currently studying a Certificate in Wildlife Management.

Interests: All wildlife and conservation related topics. I've kept many species of reptiles/other animals such as Centralian Carpets, Tiger snakes, Death Adders, Black headed Monitors, Bearded Dragons, Bird eating Spiders, Lorikeets etc.

I also love sport, Basketball, AFL, Soccer, Cricket, Surfing, and all genres of music, another big passion of mine. All of my interests started from a young age growing up in the bush and the city, and also working in an aquarium/reptile pet shop for 4 years. We also had a holiday house down near Bells Beach, Tourquay which gave me the opportunity to experience another completely different environment. All of which gives me a unique perspective on things in terms of conservation in urban areas.

I have also done a bit of volunteer work: 3 years at a VET, firefighter in the Country Fire Authority (CFA), tree planting, rubbish collecting etc.

I'm a member of the Victorian Herpetological Society, Wildlife Victoria, and AWC. Member/co founder of Warrandyte CAN, Climate Action Now. A community group about climate change and prevention.

Down south I had my own business relocating reptiles, 'Yarra View Reptile Relocations'. I'm working towards getting my damage mitigation permit for snake relocations here.

I'm exhausted just listening to all that! Welcome aboard Matt.

New Members

Also a big welcome to our other New Members:

Susan Bell, Heidi Jarmaine, Mick Easton, Anita Maritz, Alana Adamson & Rod Holingsworth, Catherine Zanerva & Ron Lightfoot, Irmgard Robinson and Matt Sleeth.

Please read the Article re NMOW next page (8)

New Members Orientation Workshop (NMOW)

We are endeavoring to hold 3 to 4 of these per year with the most recent held the afternoon of Sat 26th of February.

NMOW is an informative session of approx 3 hrs and usually includes afternoon tea. Although aimed at new members, and particularly those who wish to care, all members would benefit from attending these sessions. The NMOW runs through the history of Fauna Rescue as well as how we operate, explaining some of the regulations and guidelines we operate under, how you can help the organization in various ways, and how the organization can help you. We also run through personal health & safety, basic rescue info and first aid. This orientation also gives you the chance to ask any questions you may have if considering taking on any active role within the organization.

The dates of upcoming NMOW will be advertised in the newsletter. So if you want an update on what your group is about, or just to learn more of about benefiting wildlife come and join us.

Attendees at the recent NMOW were: Monika Gabor, Crist'l Wagemakers, and Matt Sleeth, and Nicola. Nicola is very keen, may join, but we will lose her to an organization down south shortly afterwards. The presentation was delivered by our president, Jacqui, and Treasurer, Col, with the VP, Lola, also in attendance.

Thanks again to QPWS for provision of the venue and its facilities.



Photo and info from gov't web site.

Jan Jarratt our local member has been promoted to Minister for Tourism, Manufacturing and Small Business from 21 February 2011.

Jan supports FRW through printing of the newsletter and providing letters of support when requested. For Jan this is recognition of her 10 years as the local member. FRW is apolitical but thanks Jan for her support and congratulates her on her promotion.

Treasurers Report 02 11

Account Balances

The figures provided below are as at PM 23/02/11.

FRW Acct.

Balance \$2,353.80 - \$1,000 to be transferred to Cash Reserve Acct.

Cash Reserve Acct.

Balance \$7,576.05. This acct has been changed to receive higher interest rates.

FRW continues to be reasonably healthy financially. Activity reasonably reflects budget.

Col Forster, Treasurer FRW

Rotary Club of Airlie Beach Community Raffle



It is that time of year again and we have our allocation of tickets in the Rotary Community Raffle. It is a huge help to local community groups; for FRW it is one of our biggest fundraisers. Remember that every \$ of every ticket we sell goes straight to FRW. Did I mention the prizes are great! This year first prize is a 10 day Kimberley cruise, second prize \$10,000.00, there are 9 prizes in all. We have a large number of tickets available for sale, you can take a book to sell to your friends or buy direct. Books have 5 tickets at \$5.00 each. Thanks to the members who have already purchased tickets and taken books to sell. Your help is greatly appreciated. I still have a lot of books left so if you would like to help, please phone me on 49461198. Look forward to hearing from you, Linden.

A big thanks to Rotary for organizing this.



Macropods (and Koalas)

Hi everyone,

Can't believe it's almost March, anyhow I hope you are all doing well & your little ones aren't misbehaving.

Just after Xmas I got a call asking me to contact the EPA in Mackay about a Koala that needed rescuing, when I phoned them they told me the Mackay officer was down in the floods & to phone Peter Sykes, your local bloke & I did. I told Peter that I'd never handled a koala before but I'd give it a go, so he gave me the phone no. of the policeman who was sitting by the road with it. I rang Jacqui & she told me how best to handle it then I rang the policeman & got directions.

I arrived at the top of the Eton range 40 mins later, it was 9.30. The poor cop had been up there since 5.30 am, he noticed the koala trying to cross the road with no success so he stopped the traffic & tried to help it but it got frightened, ran back & up a tree that was growing on the edge of the bank in the cutting, the koala did this 3 times but each time he got frightened & went back up the tree. The koala had no injuries. He was quite high up the tree & even from the top of the bank the tree was too far out to reach, we didn't want to leave him because once on the ground there was only one way to go & that was into traffic. We decided to cut down some tall saplings & place them from the top of the bank over to a fork in the tree hoping if he came down he would go along it & back into the bush.

By now it was 11 am & the cop had other things to do & left. I sat watching him till 12.30 when he climbed down to a fork in the tree, curled up & went to sleep, I wished him luck & headed home, I called the cop & he said he'd go & check during the day.

The next day the cop rang & said he'd just been to check & the koala was gone & there was nothing on the road, so it was a good result.

Unfortunately the Eton Range Road cuts straight through a koala corridor & it is quite common to see one dead on the side of the road, but at least we saved this little one (for now anyway).

At present I have 6 wallabies & 2 possums so I'm kept quite busy, but I enjoy it.

I'd like to let all macropod carers know that there will be a get-together/cuppa-chat/relaxed type meeting on the 3rd of April, from 10.00 am till ????, at the QPWS. Buildings at Jubilee Pocket, morning tea & lunch will be provided. This is for all carers of all species who would like to come. And bring the kids (furry that is). R.S.V.P. by 20th March for catering purposes. Ph. 49585661

Cheers for now.

Wendy Adams - Macropod S.L.O.

AWRC (NWRC)

Remember the next AWRC (Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference) is in Townsville July 16 – 20 2012. Below is the web address so you can keep up to date on progress.

<http://www.awrc.org.au/next-conference-2012.html>

Oops- Shouldn't Have eaten that!

I bet that's what this brown tree snake would have said if he could talk. It looked like an egg and smelled like an egg, probably tasted a bit chooky. So he ate it. Unfortunately it was plastic. You know how you put a plastic egg in a chook box to encourage them to lay - not a good idea.



An unusual bulge

This unfortunate snake ended up with a big pain in the belly, with the egg lodged at the end of its long stomach (half way down). Normally when an egg reaches that part of the anatomy it is soft and squishy. This one had no-where to go. Luckily he was discovered by snake loving people who rang Kylee who collected him and came round to show me. The problem we had was figuring out what to do to remove the egg. We had a few options – operate but the snakes later often die from infection, knock him out and attempt to push the egg back through the mouth or syringe paraffin oil into the stomach and hopefully make the snake regurgitate. We thought we would try the paraffin oil first, so armed with syringe long tube and oil, Kylee held and I inserted the tube into the stomach and syringed. Then it was back in the bag, cross our fingers and wait till the next day.

Letter to the Editor

I'd like to thank Linden for all her efforts, but in particular the breeding of insects. I breed mealworms but at some times demand out strips supply and the crickets and woodies are invaluable for feeding insectivorous birds and teaching them to take live food. In the past purchase of these was expensive.

Thanks Linden

Di (Jessop)

Oops cont.

No luck so option two was to take him to Vet Tim in Bowen who was willing to try to push the egg back through the mouth, so off we went to Bowen. Tim was great, he thought he would see if he could move the egg without anesthetic first (high risk of death with anesthetic), it took a while but finally it started moving. With gentle pressure the egg was on its way and a minute later it was out. (see picture on cover) It was amazing to watch!

We were a bit concerned that the neck muscles were damaged, they seemed a little loose, but armed with antibiotics and crossed fingers we headed home.

3 weeks on muscles have tightened, snake has had a feed, had a poo, and is fighting fit ready to go home.



a minute later it was out. - amazing to watch!

Now for our next patient. Carpet python nasty wounds and canker. Next edition.....

Linden Baker Reptile, Koala & Small Animal SLO

Sleepers

I'd like to say thankyou to Mr Mick Bovey from Mackay Sugar. I phoned him around 2-3 wks ago asking if they had any old sleepers. Well! To cut a long story short over 500 sleepers were delivered to me free of charge. We have done all the perimeter fences and all the internal fences of the compounds.

On behalf of Fauna Rescue Whitsundays & myself:

THANKYOU, Mr Mick Bovey & Mackay Sugar.

Wendy Adams Macropod SLO (photos currently lost in the ether!)

Aviaries

Fauna Rescue Whitsundays recently acquired 3 new aviaries and 20 rescue packs largely due to a grant from the Whitsunday Regional Council. The grant was funded through a Council Community Assistance Grant. The grant application also required a co contribution from FRW but a purchase of this size and extent would not have been possible without the grant.

The aviaries were sourced locally through Woodmans Mitre 10 at Cannonvale thanks to some competitive pricing by Garth the branch manager.

Despite taking delivery just before Christmas, the FRW committee held off allocating the aviaries until the greatest risk of cyclones had passed. One aviary will be used to house bats, the others are to be allocated to members for possum & bird rehabilitation.

These aviaries are of a size that allows them to be used as multi purpose housing approx 2.2met x 2.2met, similar to many other FRW Aviaries. They can house small and medium birds, possums and other small mammals. Snake proofing has been provided from the mesh recovered from the raptor aviary which was destroyed by Ului.

In April and May we will be looking for some willing workers, for working bees, to assist in erecting these aviaries at their new homes. Please contact a committee member to let them know if you are able to assist.



3 more aviaries just like this and in 'Corza', pg6

thanks to:

Whitsunday Regional Council.

Joycie – Barb McLennan

It was mid June 2009 and I had a “full circle moment” experience.

The story from the beginning goes back to my next door neighbor before I moved to Airlie to live. She recently died, she was 90, her name was Joycie and I loved her lots.

In early 2008 I rang her one day and said “Joycie, I have just received a new baby female agile wallaby to care for and I thought I would call her Joycie”. This of course was very special between us and she would always ask after her namesake’s welfare. Joycie was actually a little bully and on many occasions disrupted my wally camp. However I loved her and her trust in me invariably contributed to sorting out the situations and more often than not separating Joycie to give the others some peace!

She matured and seemed to become more peaceful and having been released on my property for some months stayed away for days at a time. She would romp in across the driveway, spend some time with me and off she’d go again.

I’ve noticed in recent weeks that Joycie was more placid and the other day I looked at her sideways and thought that her pouch looked saggy. I stared longer at her and excitedly saw a movement like a heart beat. I bribed her with some macropod pellets and coaxed her into letting me put my hand on her pouch. She seemed comfortable with this as if she wanted me to know her secret. I was overwhelmed with my first experience of feeling a baby wallaby in a pouch. She calls in some days, late afternoon, and is ok with me feeling ‘down there’ to confirm that there is still a heart beating and hopefully all is well.

My relationship with Joycie is so different. She has this new personality – a friend with other wallabies and obviously is more aware of her role in the animal world and her first time pregnancy. Here’s to a safe and happy life to Joycie and her baby.

FRW Noticeboard

Upcoming dates of interest:

16th March return to Cannonvale Kidz including fundraiser.

3rd of April Macropod carers get-together/cuppa-chat. From 10.00 am, at the QPWS. Buildings at Jubilee Pocket. R.S.V.P. by 20th March. Ph. 49585661 Wendy Adams Details Pg 9

Saturday 12 March 10:00am - 4.00pm: Wader (bird) Workshop

Members of QWSG are visiting Mackay to deliver this FREE workshop
email admin@pioneercatchment.org.au or phone 4944 1979.

Positions Vacant:

- Hotline Co-Ordinator
- Hotline Operators
- Bat Species Liason Officer
- Newsletter Editor
- Fundraising and Events Co-Ordinator
- Grants Co-Ordinator
- 10th Anniversary event Co-Ordinator
- Temporary Committee Member – see article N'letter 56

The Recent Past:

NMOW – See article pg 8

Cannonvale Kidz A presentation was done by Barb A Rebecca A and Rebeccas daughter, Tahlia, on 1st March. More details on the Cannonvale Kidz next issue.

Other Stuff:

The Rotary Raffle, details Pg 8 – Contact Linden Baker 4946 1198

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Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

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Hotline: 07 4947 3389

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**Caring For Our Native Wildlife
4947 3389**



From:

Fauna Rescue Whitsundays Association Inc.

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