



WILD TIMES WINTER 2018

Koala Research Project proving to be vital

Our Koala Research Project for the Whitsundays region has been progressing in leaps and bounds with over 400 records so far.

This project, conducted by Fauna Rescue Whitsundays, CQ University, Queensland University, Transport and Main Roads and Rio Tinto Hail Creek will be completed by the end of 2018.

It has shown that we have a large and very healthy population in our region and with the help of our mapping data they have been able to identify some main road kill hot spots on the Peak Downs Highway, which now will be investigated to see what might be done to reduce the road kills.

Transport and Main Roads work has been completed on the four replacement timber bridges on the Peak Downs Highway, all of these will have the koala underpass equipment fitted and Wildlife exclusion fencing installed in coming months. The Eton Range Realignment project is progressing with the wildlife exclusion fencing now installed, the remaining wildlife underpass and glider poles will be installed.

With the kind help of Transport and Main Roads, they have put up video message signs displaying "Koala Breeding Season, Watch for Wildlife and Drive Carefully", a very good result, four were installed on

the Peak Downs Highway for the duration of the breeding season.

This year has been our busiest yet with 17 koalas coming into care compared with last year where we had 9. The majority of these have been vehicle hits.

- **2 died from injuries**
- **5 were euthanized due to injuries**
- **8 were released**
- **2 remain in care**

126 reports for the mapping, 48 dead majority of these on the highways, 32 reported alive in trees, 8 released and 38 alive recorded by the University project.

You can contribute to the project by reporting any local sightings: take a photo, note address and/or gps location and send it to FRW Facebook or frwsecretary@gmail.com.

Ian Gottke, Koala SLO



**Do you have a koala neighbour?
See page 8**

Key dates coming up – *see page 6 for more details*

AUGUST 11TH – 12TH – Dr. Anne Fowler - Heating requirements for rescues

AUGUST / SEP - Members Information workshop; Basic Birds half-day workshop

OCTOBER 14TH – Members Information workshop; Basic Birds half-day workshop

President's report - By Jacqui Webb

This year is certainly steaming ahead of us. I can't believe we are nearly half way through already.

Myself and Gingie Johnson will be attending the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in July. We were the only two members who applied for assistance to attend. We hope to bring back lots of new information to share with you.

We also have some rescue basket liners and bat hammocks and wraps coming thanks to the inventive sewing skills of Judy Dower. These will also be available from Lola.

Speaking of bats our Bat Workshop last weekend went extremely well with most of our vaccinated carers attending and also some possible new bat rescuers and carers.

Thanks to all who attended, Connie Kerr for her educational and entertaining presentation and training; Lola for getting together all the workshop notes, organising the catering and handling the RSVPs; Michelle Vickery from Sushi Hi for her donation of lunch on Saturday and of course our members who attended.

Welcome Kellie Leonard and Chris Garland, new members from Hamilton Island.

Our next training session is Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation on August 11th and 12th with Dr Anne Fowler.

ALL carers and rescuers should be attending to update and learn the latest techniques in wildlife rehabilitation.

Tradies to the rescue

The kind action of fast thinking builders in Warrain St Shute Harbour recently saved the life of the baby bandicoot which had fallen into the bottom of the dry swimming pool.

A safe and warm overnight stay with Di Foster to recoup, a yummy feed and life was back to normal, returning to it's family the next day.



Kate Purvis has retired from her positions as Macropod SLO and Bat SLO and we would like to thank her for her time in these positions and all the help and support, not only to our wildlife but our carers as well. We wish her well with her studies and hope she may continue to care for some of our less demanding critters.

Andrea is now our Macropod SLO and Kerry Aspland our new Proserpine Rock Wallaby SLO. Cathi Zanevra will now be taking over from Kylee (and thank you Kylee for assisting Kate in this role) as our new Bat SLO. Thank you to these ladies for stepping up to these positions.

We will be looking for volunteers in July/August to help move enclosures from Kate's to their new homes. If you can help please let me know.

We have been busy applying for grant funding this year with our Ergon Grant for fit out of the display trailer being successful. We are still waiting to hear back from Aurizon – Housing for Wildlife; National Landcare Program – Reveg, ReEd, Renewal; Whitsunday Regional Council; Macrossen & Amiet – Training and manuals.

Thank you to Caroline Racine-Shaw and her co-workers at the Metropole Hotel for their generous donation of \$676 from their meat raffle sales. This donation will go a long way to assisting with such things as food and vet bills for our wildlife.

We have submitted comments on the Whitsunday Regional Council's Draft Bush Fire Management Policy as well as GBRMPA's Woodwark Bay Site Plan Policy and Planning. Thanks to both departments for inviting us to comment on these drafts, enabling us to have a voice for our wildlife.

Now is the time to stock up on "baby care" items, especially birds and bats. Check Lola's list below for items you may need. Don't leave it until it's too late. Ring Lola (between 9am-3pm) T : 4946 1281.

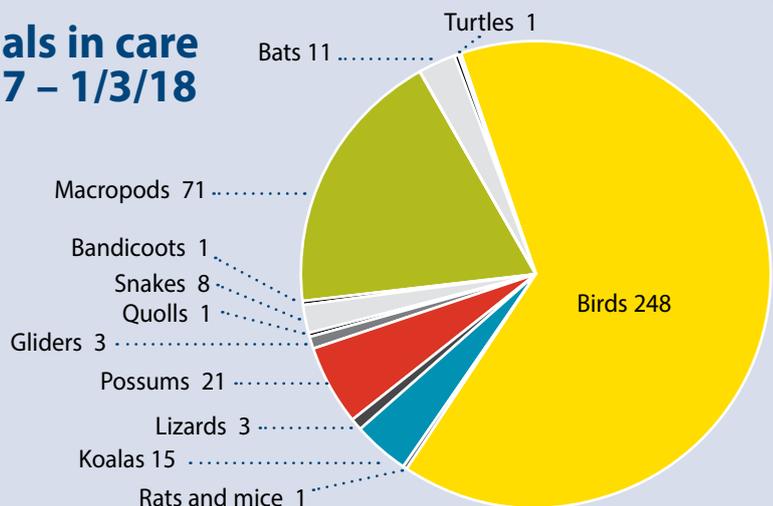
Keep an eye on our Facebook pages, there are two. One the public can also see and message and also **Working on Fauna Rescue Whitsundays** page, members only to share information and organise transportation of wildlife between carers and to vets. **I encourage you all to share your stories and photos of your critters in care here too as well of course to Cathi for this newsletter.**

And lastly, don't forget to update your animal records on a regular basis.

Cheers Jacqui



Animals in care 1/3/17 – 1/3/18



SLO Reports *Updates from our Species Liaison Officers*

Possum and glider report – Barbara Adamson 0458 525 700

Number of animals in care: 7.

Animals taken into care in the last quarter: 10.

Main issues affecting them: Dead mums or road accidents.

Number of animals released in the last quarter: 7.

Peak season: February.

Number of active carers: Six in Airlie Beach, one in Mackay.

Highlights of past quarter: We had a possum come in from Hamilton Island. It had been lying on a path and all the tradies were stepping over it thinking it was dead. One of the tradies dropped his hammer and the noise made this baby move so he picked it up and took it home. When

I met the boat this baby was starving and dehydrated and had an eye that was ulcerated. Straight to the Orchid Valley vets for us and straight to theatre for this girl called Lucy. The eye was scraped and filled with antibiotic etc and stitched shut to allow it the best chance of healing. In one week we will have the stiches out. She is a fighter and doing ok. These vets we have here are amazing. Whatever the result we know the best has been done for the animal.

Current requirements: Volunteers to help with school talks Community Education. New release sites for possums please. (We use the release cage so people do not need to have a cage on their property).



Bird report – Jacqui Webb 0427 176 966

Number of birds currently in care : 13

Birds taken into care in last quarter: 43

Number of birds released last quarter: 8

Peak season: spring/summer:

Number of active carers: 14

Highlights of last quarter: It has been relatively quiet but I have been working with some of our new members who have started caring for birds. Thanks to Di and Lorelle for assisting with stabilising new birds into care and then

passing on to some of our newer carers.

Current requirements: We still need to get a couple more flight aviaries, one here and one in Mackay. Could anyone interested in caring for birds please contact me as baby bird season is fast approaching, with some babies already coming into care. I also need to know who needs aviaries for birds as we do have some 3m aviaries for loan.



Koala report – Ian Gottke 0459 362 911

Number of koalas currently in care: 2

koalas taken into care in last quarter: 18

Main issues affecting them: Vehicle impacts

Number of koalas released last quarter: 8

Peak season: All year round

Number of active carers: 3

Highlights of past quarter: Releasing 8 koalas back to their home ranges

Current requirements: Nil



Echidna report – Jacqui Webb 0427 176 966

Number currently in care: 1.

Echidnas taken into care in last quarter: 2.

Main issues affecting them: Hit by car.

Number released last quarter: 1.

Peak season: Spring/summer.

Number of active carers: 2.

Highlights of past quarter: Releasing young echidna, Grace, who was in care for several

months after a nasty dog attack.

Current requirements: I need to get my echidna enclosure replaced and enlarged to Code of Practise size.

Also, I am looking for a large tub approximately 80cm high x 80cm round or square, suitable for indoor or outdoor use to house extra large echidnas that may come into care.



SLO Reports *(continued)*

Bat report – Cathi Zanevra 0419 922 426

Number of bats currently in care: 2.

Bats taken into care in the last quarter: 8.

Main issues affecting them: Tangled in barbed wire, electrocution, fan strike

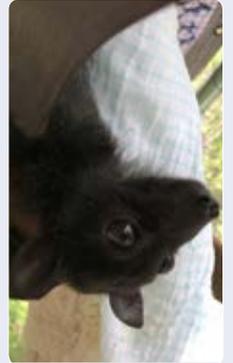
Number of animals released in the last quarter: 6.

Peak season: Spring/summer

Number of active carers: 5

Highlights of past quarter: Connie Kerr's weekend presentation and meeting some fantastic and new carers for our team.

Current requirements: All bat carers and rescuers must be vaccinated for Lyssavirus. I'll be contacting everyone to ensure that everybody has had their levels checked this year. According to regulations we must do this annually, this is part of our commitment.



Small mammal report – Jacqui Webb 0427 176 966

Number of animals currently in care: 1.

Animals taken into care in the last quarter: 1.

Main issues: Found in a pool.

Number of animals released in the last quarter: 1.

Number of active carers: 4.

Highlights of past quarter:

Current requirements: I am keen to hear from members who are able to care for bandicoots, native mice and rats.



Marine turtle report – Libby Edge 0417 642 815

Number of turtles currently in care: One in care at present.

Turtles taken into care in the last quarter: Nil.

Main issues affecting them: Float fishing line and marine debris.

Number of turtles released in the last quarter: Nil.

Peak season for care requirement: Winter/Spring.

Number of active carers: 20.

Highlights of past quarter: Having no new turtles in care :).

Current requirements: Nil.



Proserpine Rock Wallaby – Kerry Aspland 0403 033 314

Number of animals currently in care: 5

Number taken into care in the last quarter: 4

Main issues affecting them: Rebuild on Hayman after Debbie

Number released in the last quarter: 1

Peak season: Now

Number of active carers: Not sure

Highlights of past quarter: New enclosure at my house. Pippi ready for release in a couple of week.

Current requirements: Another enclosure as all the Joeys are very different in age.



Macropod – Andrea Gottke 0478 618 859

Number of animals currently in care: 35

Main issues: Mothers hit by car

Number released in the last quarter: Nil

Number of active carers: 8.

Highlights of past quarter: A welcome addition has been the four humidicribs from the Aurizon Community Grant. This makes our job of raising pinkies a little easier.

Current requirements: We require a SLO as I am only temporarily filling the position.

More carers are urgently needed as well as suitable release sites.

We are currently seeing more joeys coming into care this is concerning as our carers are already reaching capacity. Please, if you can help, call the hotline or myself.



SLO Reports *(continued)*

Reptile report – Neil Cutten 0429 425 773

Number of reptiles currently in care: 1

Reptiles taken into care in the last quarter: 3

Main issues affecting them: Car strikes, cat/dog attacks.

Number of reptiles released in the last quarter: nil

Number of active carers: 2 (known).

Peak season: Wet season.

Highlights of past quarter: I've been busy with snake-resisting the PRW enclosure at Kerry's and building the aviary at Viv's place along with a higher than usual

number of call outs this month for snake relocations (18, 10 of which resulted in relocations).

I have had five call outs for Eastern Browns in the last couple of weeks with two relocations of large specimens and one juvenile.

These were spread out with one in Jubilee Pocket, one in Midge Point, two in Cannon Valley and one in Proserpine. As with a lot of call outs, not all snakes were found to be relocated.



Sizzling news

Our loyal volunteers have a lot of fun working at sausage sizzles, and of course the fundraising and information sharing is vital.



Funds raised from our sausage sizzles allows us to operate our emergency hotline 24/7. Our volunteers are responsible for the entire region from Collinsville to Bowen through to Mackay and beyond.

Sausage sizzles also contribute to the medical costs for the many injured creatures we work so hard to save. It also helps us to purchase aviaries and food for the many birds that come into care.

We are very grateful to Bunnings for the opportunity to fundraise and provide information to the public through their sausage sizzle facility.

Thanks also to Brumbys at the Whitsunday Shopping Centre for the continued supply of free bread to all of our sausage sizzles over the years.

Upcoming Bunnings barbie dates:
9 June, 24 June, 22 July.

Thank you to locals and businesses

What would we do without all the wonderful, generous people in our community who regularly donate to Fauna Rescue through our donation tins?

Thank you to the many local businesses who house our donation tins on their counters and collect these very much needed funds to keep Fauna Rescue Whitsundays operating.

- Barb Mc

School education program

Can you help?
Volunteers needed

Gingie, our fantastic new recruit, came along with Max the Magpie (aka Lorelle) and myself - and a baby possum - to the Cannonvale kindy for two education sessions recently.

These sessions are always enjoyable and fun for everyone.

The children and staff asked loads of questions, and bags are given out containing our new kids book, stickers, colouring pages and of course our hotline fridge magnet.

Lola and a couple of volunteers attended the Under 8 day at Proserpine State School recently. This was attended by about 1000 kids including the kids from Hamilton Island. A very fun couple of hours for all.

These education sessions are really vital to help nurture compassion in our next generation and seeing this importance we have been asked to present them for many years now.

Tuesday June 5th is World environment day and I have been invited to attend the Youth Space in Proserpine to talk to the youth about how we all can help our environment. I will give a talk about Fauna Rescue Whitsundays and also Boomerang Bags.

I would love new volunteers for our Community Education sessions as I would like to retire! Please ring myself or the Hotline if you think you may like to help in this role.

- Barb Adamson

Rebuilt shelter for Prossie Rock Wallabies

- Kerry Aspland

A big thankyou to all that helped with the Proserpine Rock Wallaby enclosure: Neil, Jason, DanKav and their crew.

Wayne and Jordan Aspland and Vlad my friend from Melbourne who thought he was coming for a break Lol.

It has been a huge community effort to get this enclosure built as Miss Pearl had reached 2.5kg with nowhere to run.

A big thanks to Barb Mac for allowing me to take Miss Pearl to her place for a run to allow her to have the yard.

There is another little one waiting to come into my care, which will make four Proserpine Rock Wallabies.





Training is important

I would like to stress the importance of keeping up-to-date with training. There are new advances in wildlife rehabilitation which not only benefits wildlife in care but carers too.

Ongoing training is crucial for the positive outcome of rehabilitation and release of wildlife in our care. It is also part of our permit requirement to provide regular training for our carers. We provide this service free of charge to our members.

The cost of this is absorbed by FRW funds, therefore, the more people attending equals better value for money – these events can cost over \$1500.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next training session.
– Jacqui Webb

Balloons can cause a cruel, slow death

Released balloons are as harmful as plastic bags to our oceanlife and wildlife.

– Barb Mc

Stay up-to-date with FRW volunteers' facebook page!

https://www.facebook.com/groups/865887710182056/?ref=group_header
(click the www address to go to)

This page is for FRWs members to share caring tips and information and to place animals needing care. If you are not a member you are welcome to share messages on our public Fauna Rescue Whitsundays page.

VET BILLS – Michelle Sumara

For approval of the expense SLO or Committee member must be contacted and informed about the case and possible cost involved PRIOR of the Vet visit/ proceedings to avoid conflict with the local veterinarians for unpaid invoices of treatments that are not supported by FRW (e.g. unauthorized vet visits from the Member of Public on behalf of FRW).

All approvals by a committee member or SLO for vet treatment are to be conveyed to myself, Treasurer (jormonau@gmail.com), so that vet bills can be crossed referenced with this information prior to payment.

Upcoming events

Dates and presenters may change if the stated time, presenter or venue is not available.

AUGUST 11TH – 12TH

Dr. Anne Fowler - Requirements for heating of animals and maintaining heating, humidity and the devices to do this. All carers should attend this.

Parks and Wildlife – Shute Harbour Rd, Jubilee Pocket

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea catered.

RSVP Lola 4946 1281 melo@mackay.net.au

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER - date to be decided - check www.frw.org.au

Members Information – Back to Basics half-day workshop – 9am–noon

Basic Birds with Jacqui Webb half-day workshop – 1pm–4pm

Padaminka Walkerston

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea catered.

RSVP date to be decided Lola 4946 1281 melo@mackay.net.au

OCTOBER 14TH

Members Information – Back to Basics half-day workshop – 9am–noon

Basic Birds with Jacqui Webb half-day workshop – 1pm–4pm

Parks and Wildlife – Shute Harbour Rd, Jubilee Pocket

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea catered.

RSVP 10th October Lola 4946 1281 melo@mackay.net.au

A big welcome to our new members

We are very grateful to welcome new members: Chris Garland, Zara Janssen, Aidan Christiansen, Jo Pillifeant, Yuko Konno, Eon Aurumshin and Cathy and Colin Battersby - thank you all for becoming valued FRW members.

Volunteering for our native wildlife can be very rewarding and interesting. We are more looking for volunteers to rescue or transport animals, answer the hotline, care, construct caring facilities, do presentations, sew pouches, help with marketing, grant writing and run workshops. Support and training is provided for all positions.

Contact FRW on 07 4947 3389, frwsecretary@gmail.com or fill out the membership form on www.frw.org.au.

Thank you to our kind local vets

The wisdom and free time that our vets provide to Fauna Rescue when attending to our wildlife is one of the reasons our organisation is successful.

Thank you to the practices locally and to the surrounding area vets including Mackay and Bowen.



Bat workshop June 2018

We were very fortunate to have Connie Kerr return for an intensive weekend of rescue, diagnosis and care training for flying foxes and microbats.

The course was very well attended by a great cross section of current and future bat carers from the whole region.

With plenty of new and refined information being presented it ensured our bat caring team's skills are honed to the most current caring practices to ensure the best outcome for these gentle and sociable creatures.

We really cannot thank Connie enough for delivering so much information in such an interesting and effective presentation. It is certainly something not to be missed should Connie return!

– Ron Lightfoot

FAST FACT
Microbats can consume around 1200 mosquitos per hour!



Connie demonstrating rehydration technique on a flying fox.

Brodie all set to go home

Brodie was found on Whitehaven Beach in May 2016, and thanks to Cruise Whitsundays he was transferred to WTRC.

It seems as though he has been hit by a boat propeller as he has some sever lacerations to his carapace and his front right flipper has been severed off.

Brodie was transported to Cairns Turtle Rehab Centre, in July 2017. There he underwent six long hours of difficult bone surgery and removal of a granuloma from his right flipper which had been badly damaged.

We can't thank Jennie Gilbert and Marlin Coast Veterinary Centre enough for their amazing work.

It would not have been possible without the help of the Marine Park Rangers who spent an hour and half with a crane gently getting him out of his tank and for the dedicated volunteers who stood by Brodie's side throughout the whole procedure. Jennie has a fantastic team up in Cairns, Brodie is such a lucky turtle and is in the best possible hands.

Brodie has made a full recovery and is now back at the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre and will be released back in Whitsunday Waters in the next few weeks.

He'll be wearing a tracker and the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre will follow his movements. – Libby Edge, Marine Turtle SLO



Turtle carer Kylie Graf with Brodie.

FRW contact info

COMMITTEE

President – Jacqui Webb

T : 4947 3308 0427 176 966
E : jacqui.webb@bigpond.com

Vice President – Lola Mudie

(Membership, food supplies, events and merchandising officer)
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Treasurer – Michelle Hosking

T : 0407 386 601 E : jormonau@gmail.com

Secretary – Ian Gottke

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E : frwsecretary@gmail.com

Committee – Andrea Gottke

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Committee – Monika Gabor

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Committee – Neil Cutten

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SNAKE RELOCATORS

Neil Cutten (fee charged) T : 0429 425 773
Kylee Gray (fee charged) T : 0424 456 254

SPECIES LIASON OFFICERS

Small mammals, birds, raptors and echidnas – Jacqui Webb

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Bats – Cathi Zanevra

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Proserpine Rock Wallaby – Kerry Aspland

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Macropods – Andrea Gottke

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Possum and gliders – Barbara Adamson

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Reptiles – Neil Cutten

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Marine turtles – Libby Edge

Marine Turtle Hotline: 0456 826 228
T : 0417 642 815
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CO-ORDINATORS

Sausage sizzles – Barb McLennan

T : 4946 6400

Food supplies, bugs and small rodents

– Linden Baker

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Food and first aid supplies,

(Wombaroo products) – Lola Mudie

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Publications, newsletter and website

editor – Cathi Zanevra

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Koala tracking map

This map shows over 400 sightings of koalas reported to the Koala Research Project for the Whitsundays region so far. Have you got a koala in your neighbourhood?

If you see a koala in the Whitsundays region plus help koalas by reporting sightings:

1. Take a photo
2. Note address and/or gps location
3. Send info to frwsecretary@gmail.com or frw Facebook

-  Living koala
-  Deceased koala
-  Koala which has been rehabilitated and released

