

## Tangled butcher bird rescued by team of rescuers

**Leanne recently got a call from a distressed member of public. There was a bird high in a tree hanging upside down by one leg with fishing line tightly wrapped around its leg.**

Leanne called one of our first responders, who was closeby, to see if she could assist.

Meanwhile the member of public flagged down a passing fire truck to see if they could assist as it was high up in the tree.

The lovely fire fighters at Bowen fire and rescue were more than happy to help and rushed back to the station to grab some more equipment.

Soon they managed to get the bird down safely and unwrap the fishing line from its leg.

With the assistance of our first

responder and the member of public some pain medicine was administered and the bird was thoroughly assessed and successfully released where his family was patiently waiting.

**Shout out to all involved in this success story it was definitely a team effort!**

*Leanne Grech – North Gregory Pit*



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

*"Working on FAUNA RESCUE WHITSUNDAYS"*  
or



## Disoriented nesting turtle given some space

**A flat back turtle nested on Catseye Beach Hamilton Island in December. She was first spotted on the lawn area in the Beach Club Resort, disoriented by the light, before heading back to beach, where she started nesting.**

Barricades were put up after the turtle returned to the ocean, to

protect the nest, stopping anyone accidentally walking on top of it, which could impact the eggs.

Flatback nesting sites can only be found along the coast of Australia and usually on the southern end of the GBR. A female will return to the same beach for up to four subsequent clutches within the same nesting season. They lay less eggs in each clutch than other species of turtles.

**If you see a turtle on a beach, remain quiet and don't use any light. If she is disturbed she may dump her clutch at sea or get disoriented.**



## Baby curlew raised from an egg

Recently Di Forster was sent to deal with a situation where a bush-stone curlew was sitting on two eggs just where Ergon needed to dig.

Ergon had a mitigation permit to move the bird, but the dilemma was would Di be able to move the eggs a short distance and would the parents return to them? In short no, they would not sit back on the eggs and time was running out. They looked at them then one pecked a hole in one egg, which was, thank goodness, infertile.

Di took the other egg home and incubated it, and had almost forgotten about it until early one morning 5 days later when she heard chirping, it was coming from the egg!

Did it need a hand to hatch? After some research Di deemed it was best not to interfere.

Di went out for a few hours, and on returning, her baby curlew was hatched!

It is currently doing very well – a miracle – and Di calls it 'Lucky' (*mind you she calls a lot of her birds 'Lucky'*).

Di says: ***"this is why a I'm a wildlife carer, there are many more heart-warming laugh out loud moments than the sad ones"***.

Both male and female curlews take turns to sit on the nest before eggs hatch. During that two to three hour shift the partner leaves to feed. The main visible difference between the sexes is that the female has a longer bill, but the female is also larger than the male. Juveniles have much shorter bills.



If you'd like to help injured and orphaned birds contact FRW Hotline: 4947 3389



## Another great way to help our wildlife

Give FRW's Scheme ID number C10443127 when returning containers at Containers for Change and the amount will be transferred to the bank account of FRW.



You can use it by yourself or give the number to your friends, relatives so they can also donate from anywhere in Australia.

## Eastern Koel enjoys some time out at Hammo

Kellie and Glen recently had a juvenile Eastern Koel (also known as a Common Koel) in their care.

Koels are a member of the cuckoo family. They migrate from PNG and Indonesia to Australia around September to breed, and leave around March.

Not being able to find anyone with previous experience with Eastern Koels, their first day feeding was trial and error. They quickly found out he

preferred fruit to insects, which made their job easier. They still snuck some insectivore into banana.

Once he was stronger, Kellie and Glen searched for figs and fruit on branches, which he would eat in the wild, so he would know what to look for once released.

Eastern koels are a very shy by nature and he made the softest sweetest sound when he was hungry.

It took Kellie and Glen a while to decide

on a release site, because currawongs would join force and even try to attack him through the cage.

They found a site with lots of fig trees and left the cage there for a while, to make sure currawongs weren't around.

After opening the release cage they watched him fly free, feeding in fig trees until he flew out of sight. Another great day.

*Kellie Leonard & Glen Bradford – Hamilton Island*



The Eastern Koel lays its eggs in the nests of other bird species. A single egg is laid in the host's nest and once hatched the chick forces the other eggs and hatchlings out of the nest. When the chick leaves the nest it roosts in the outer branches of a tree, cheeping incessantly while the significantly smaller parents desperately search for sufficient food to satisfy the nagging youngster.



# A wildlife rescue of a different kind

Kellie Leonard & Glen Bradford- Hamilton Island

## We had flatback turtle hatchlings near Catseye Beach on Hamilton Island 60 days after a Flatback turtle nested there.

Unfortunately none of the hatchlings headed to the ocean and were found in Beach Club restaurant kitchen, dining room, loading bay, under ice machines, gardens and the sports club, mistaking the resort lights for the reflection of the moon on the ocean.

Every hatchling had to be guided to the ocean using one bright light, which turned out to be an very long night because the tide was going out quicker than they could run, after being so disoriented.

Next day, when 4yo Aria and her mum went to the pool in the afternoon, Aria spotted what she thought was a toy in a drain. Mum quickly realised it was a baby turtle. Aria wanted to keep it, but instead they rushed it to the ocean, saving it's life.

The next day we arranged for Aria to meet us at the pool and I asked her to show me where she found the turtle. She took me over to the drain and couldn't believe

there was another turtle in there, a toy this time which she could keep! Afterwards she identified the hatchling she had found and then I presented her a Certificate of Appreciation.

**After hatching, turtles will remain in the nest for a number of days, absorbing their yolk for energy for their first few days making their way from the nest to offshore waters.**

The hatchlings will begin their climb out of the nest together and wait near the surface until the temperature of the sand cools, which usually indicates night, when they are less likely to be eaten by predators or overheat.

It is believed hatchlings imprint the unique qualities of their hatching beach, while still in the nest and/or on their run to the ocean.

Hopefully the little females will return to Catseye Beach in years to come to lay their own nests.



## New baby possum carer enjoying the experience

**We caught up with our new baby possum carer, Ailen, and asked her a few questions about her experience with caring so far:**

**What made you decide to become a volunteer?** I saw a post on Facebook that Fauna Rescue Whatsundays needs extra hands and thought 'why not'!?



**Who are you caring for at the moment?** A baby possum called Butter.

**What do you enjoy about caring for Butter?** How much he makes me smile!! Just warms my heart!

**What is the next step for Butter's rehabilitation back to the wild?** Once he is big enough he will move into a bigger cage that he will be sharing with



other possums and then after that they will get moved into soft release cage to slowly start making their way back to real world.

**What do you enjoy about volunteering for our wildlife?** The love and joy those baby animals bring to our lives and at the same time us giving them second chance.



If you'd like to help injured and orphaned possums please call Kerry 0403 033 314

## Whitpro to the rescue!

A massive thanks to Tim and Norina at Whitpro for helping Fauna Rescue recently. We had a badly injured flying fox at the top of a tree.

With their amazing 'spider lift' we soared right up and into the tree canopy and safely got the bat out as darkness fell.

It's a big machine that certainly got the neighbourhood out to witness the rescue!

The job was donated - thanks Whitpro, what a great community we have!



If you'd like to be part of a wildlife rescue team call FRW Hotline: 4947 3389



## It takes a village to rehabilitate wildlife

FRW volunteers are incredibly grateful to the support we receive from our community and local businesses.

Picture below is Alex, the wonderful fruit and veggie manager at Woolworths Airlie Beach. Woolworths regularly supplies our carers with leftover fruit for our recovering wildlife. Thank you Alex and Woolies!



Alex presenting Woolies' regular donation of fruit to volunteers Kerry and Suzette

## Why it is important to use WildMan animal records

It is important that carers input their data into WildMan. This gives us the ability to use the data when applying for our permit and grants.

This is so important to be able to document what and how we do our caring re animals.

If members do not comply they may not be eligible for any assistance re the cost of food and may have to pay for their animal food.

For those that do not have access or are having difficulties doing so contact Mel Mudie E: lolam1950@hotmail.com

**Birdsong Software**  
ARN 854-4965998

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**WildMan Wildlife Management System**  
A comprehensive Wildlife Management System designed specifically for wildlife rehabilitators. The web version of the system is made available free of charge to wildlife groups on the sole condition that they do not sell it or charge anyone else for its use.

The system comes in two versions.

**The web based version**  
The web based version is designed to be installed on your own website and shared by multiple people. It has been running on our website for more than 10 years and is constantly being improved. We provide the web

## Education booklets and cards for kids available

Did you know that FRW have produced colourful A4 kids activity booklets designed to engage kids in nature and generate compassion towards our native wildlife?

Packed with fun activities and interesting facts, these booklets are available now!



**Brush-tail possums** live mainly solitary lives, however you will often find a mother and joey together. They live in a hollow log, but sometimes can be found in ceilings and under carports. Their diet mostly consists of leaves, flowers of native plants and fruit but they are also known for foraging in rose gardens and rubbish bins.

When a possum joey is born, it weighs less than 0.2 of a gram and is covered in a thin pink skin. It uses its front paws and claws to grip onto the mother's fur and make its way to the pouch. Once safe inside, the jellybean-sized joey attaches itself to one of her mother's teats where she will grow and develop. They stay in the pouch until they are around 120 days old and well furred.

**If you find an injured possum:** With the assistance of a adult, gently cover the head with a towel or similar to reduce distress. Try to hold the possum by the base of the tail and scruff of neck (beware of sharp claws and teeth). Stress is a major killer of all types of marsupials so please be as gentle and calm as possible. Check surrounding bushland for joeys as they may be closely. To transport, gently wrap it in a towel, pillowcase or place it in a covered box with holes. Turn car radio off to help calm. Do not attempt to give food or water. Contact FRW immediately. Note where you found the injured possum for it's return home

FOR INJURED WILDLIFE CALL **4947 3389** 24 HOUR HOTLINE  
Check out our website! [www.frw.org.au](http://www.frw.org.au)

We also have a set of 16 educational cards featuring wildlife found in the Whitsundays with pictures on the front and information on the reverse side.

## Baby bat creche a resounding success this season

According to juvenile bat 'mum' Suzette – after opening the hatch a month ago, no bats dropped in for a fruit or blossom snack many days.

Our flying fox babies have 'wilded'.

This is exactly what we want - 29 orphaned, hand-raised pups have grown up healthy and strong and flown off with their wild bats mentors.

After 3 months of fruit chopping, wild food foraging, aviary cleaning,



health checks and nightly python patrols, life feels just that little bit empty!

Thanks to all helpers, Woolies Airlie staff for fruit collecting and donating, snake catchers and all baby bat parents!



If you'd like to help injured and orphaned bats please call Suzette 0419 768 195

## Please help us to help our wildlife!

**We are very grateful to all our members - active or non active.**

Volunteering for our native wildlife can be very rewarding.

**We desperately need somebody to take on the role of Secretary, also Species Liason Officers for birds and echidnas.**

We also need help to rescue or transport animals, hotline, care, construction, presentations, sew pouches, help with marketing, grant writing and run workshops. Please spread the word to your friends/family and if they want to get involved, please pass on our details.

**Contact FRW on 4947 3389, frwsecretary@gmail.com or contact co-ordinators below to find out how to help.**

### COMMITTEE

**PRESIDENT – Kerry Aspland**  
M: 0403 033 314 E: kerryaspland@gmail.com

**VICE PRESIDENT – Lola Mudie**  
H: 07 4946 1281 E: lolam1950@hotmail.com

**SECRETARY – Vacant** **HELP NEEDED**  
E: frwsecretary@gmail.com

**TREASURER – Alison Pighills**  
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### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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### SPECIES LIASON OFFICERS

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**Bats – Suzette Pelt**  
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**Birds / Raptors – Vacant** **HELP NEEDED**  
**Echidnas – Vacant**

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**Macropods – Kerry Aspland**  
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**Marine Turtles – Libby Edge** M: 0417 642 815  
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**Small Mammals, Possums/Glidors, Proserpine**  
**Rock Wallaby – Kerry Aspland**

M: 0403 033 314 E: kerryaspland@gmail.com

**Reptiles/Frogs – Neil Cutten**  
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## Hotliners needed

**Many hands make light work so if you are able to contribute even a small amount then it helps ease the pressure on our volunteers.**

Hotline operators take calls from the public and organise a rescuer/carer for the animal needing help. The hotline can be transferred to your mobile. Most days there are only a couple of calls.

Even if you are only able to help for half a day the assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**If you can help please call or message Leanne M: 0456 706 419**



### CO-ORDINATORS

**Barbeques – Helen & Gary Brown**  
M: 0497770095 E: cobwebs@live.com.au

**Education, Equipment, Promotion – Lola Mudie**  
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**Food, First-Aid supplies, Equipment and Housing – Lola and Mel Mudie**  
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