

Collinsville flying fox dispersal: A costly and distressing endeavor

The ongoing efforts by the Whitsunday Regional Council to disperse flying fox colonies in Collinsville have raised serious concerns among residents and wildlife advocates alike.

With an estimated cost exceeding \$500,000 to date, the financial burden on ratepayers is significant. However, the implications extend far beyond monetary costs; the welfare of the wildlife and ethical considerations regarding animal welfare are also at stake.

Flying foxes, particularly Little Reds, have long made Collinsville their temporary home, staying for a few months, drawn by the availability of food amidst ongoing habitat loss in the region.

The council's attempts at dispersal, in August 2022 and October 2023, have been met with criticism and distress.

While only non-lethal means are permitted, the methods used in the October dispersal, including pyrotechnic devices likened to gunshots, have been alarming. Residents reported a scene reminiscent of the Wild West, with vehicles randomly firing and entering private properties without consent. Such actions not only induce panic among wildlife but also pose risks to residents and their pets.

Recent endeavors involving the aerial spraying of chemical mixtures raise



An unknown number of bats have died as a result of the dispersal.

Of particular concern is the timing of these dispersal efforts, notably during peak birthing season. The October dispersal coincided with the period when black flying foxes were heavily pregnant or caring for dependent young.

Despite guidelines discouraging dispersals during such critical periods, the actions proceeded, resulting in the deaths of numerous babies.

additional environmental and health concerns.

Despite initial claims of success, subsequent events have highlighted the

inadequacy of these dispersal efforts. Splintering of colonies into residential areas further exacerbates conflicts and underscores the failure of such measures.

The dispersals have not only failed to address the underlying issues but also violated ethical standards outlined in wildlife management guidelines.

Effective solutions must prioritise the well-being of both humans and wildlife, considering the ecological significance of flying fox populations and the broader implications of their management.



For a variety of reasons, the bat team has seen a massive increase in orphans this year.

In memory of Lola Mudie

It was with sadness that we lost tireless volunteer Lola Mudie in January.

Her passion for native wildlife was an inspiration and her expertise was extensive from many years of volunteering. She is deeply missed.



FRW stall at Round the World Clipper Yacht Race

In January Fauna Rescue Whitsundays was invited to hold a fundraising BBQ and info tent at Coral Sea Marina as part of the Round the World Clipper Yacht Race festivities.

It was a fantastic opportunity to network with the public and spread the word of kindness and volunteering for wildlife.



Hotline Emergency Rescue Chat a helpful tool

The recently implemented *Emergency Rescue Chat* on Messenger has proven to be an invaluable lifesaving resource, enabling swift communication between hotline operators and rescuers. This ensures our prompt response to wildlife in distress.

Previously, hotline operators faced the arduous task of individually phoning potential rescuers to determine their availability.

However, with this Messenger tool, operators can instantly connect with over 60 individuals who can work together to ensure the best outcome for wildlife in distress.

The Emergency Chat serves exclusively for coordinating ongoing rescues, ensuring that outstanding rescue cases remain the focus.

General wildlife discussions have a dedicated Facebook page for collaboration and brainstorming on our FRW Volunteers Connect page.

If you are a volunteer (and are a member of the FRW Volunteers Connect Facebook page) and wish to be part of the Messenger Emergency Rescue Chat Group send a message to the Volunteers Connect Facebook Page or find the chat and "Request Invite".

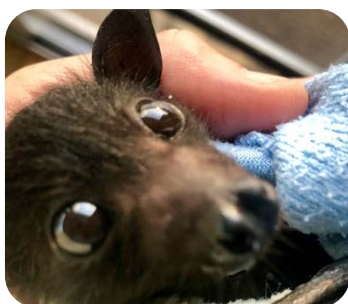
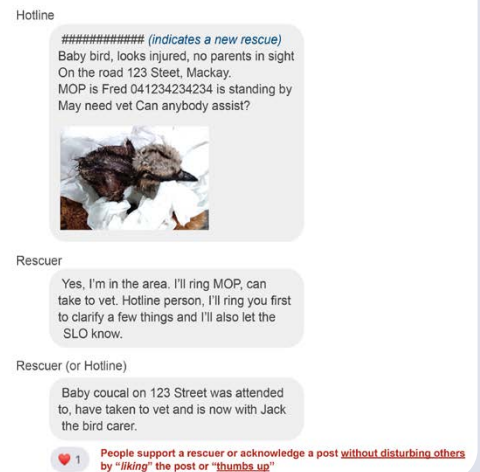
The Rescue Chat needs to be **free from clutter** so that **we can be clear which rescues are still outstanding**. We also aim to minimise disturbance to those in the group (and avoid losing rescuers to the 'mute' button).

Ideally, rescue callouts should be in the format of **3 informative messages**, something like this for example:

- 1 NEW RESCUE POSTED BY HOTLINE:** (indicated with #####)
 - #####
 - What:** Injured possum, possible dog attack
 - Where:** On road 123 Street, Mackay
 - MOP:** Fred 041234234234 is standing by
 - Action required:** May need a vet. Can anybody assist?
 - Tag Species Liaison Officer (SLO)
 - Attach a picture from Member of Public (MOP) if possible
- 2 RESPONDER REPLIES:**
 - "Yes, I'm in the area. I'll ring MOP and can take it to the vet. Hotline person, I'll ring you first to clarify a few things, and I'll also let the SLO know."
- 3 WHEN RESCUE COMPLETE:** Rescuer or the Hotline posts:
 - "Injured possum at 123 Street safe in care."
 - That way, we all know that it's been attended to.*

Where possible keep the posts short and informative (so as to avoid sending multiple posts and confusing the chat)

If you 'reply' to a comment then it's easy to see the 'trail' of that one rescue.



Volunteers – Stay up-to-date with FRW volunteers' facebook page!
"FRW Volunteers Connect" or



Spread the Word! Thank you to Whitsunday News for regularly donating advertising space.



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 Queensland.

Barbie helpers needed!

Our volunteers have a hoot working at sausage sizzles, and the fundraising and information sharing is vital.

Sausage sizzles provide a great opportunity to connect with the community, recruit volunteers and importantly, encourage kindness to our local wildlife; all while raising much needed funds.

We are heartened by the community compassion for our wildlife as so many people stop to share their stories and seek information on how they can help to make a difference.

FRW recently had a wonderful donation from the Lions Club where they not only supplied the food to cook, they helped at the Bunnings BBQ AND then donated the profits of over \$4000!

For more info on how you can help at BBQs, contact Gary on 0487 152 886



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 permits and grants, it also assists in assessing our needs as a rescue group.

This is crucial for documenting our animal care practices and activities. *If members do not comply, they may not be eligible for assistance with the cost of food and will have to pay for their animal's food.*



To log into the animal records go to:

<http://www.frwdata.org.au/WildMan/Animals.php>

Enter your user name and password

TO ADD ANIMALS THAT COME INTO YOUR CARE

1. Click on **ANIMALS** Button
2. On main page change all drop boxes to **ALL**, then change as you need to, *ie your name, group-carer.*
3. Click **ADD**

- Fill in all the boxes. *Most have drop down arrows.*
- Ensure all dates are entered correctly.
- Ensure ages are entered correctly. *If you don't know date of birth make sure you select one of the other options or for unknown untick box. Please enter as much info in notes as possible and weight, lengths etc.*

If you experience difficulties, please contact your SLO for assistance.

RESCUER is you or MOP (Member of the Public).

4. Click **SAVE** when finished adding details – *If you forget to click SAVE your entries will be lost.*
5. Hit **RETURN**. Make sure all drop down boxes are changed to ALL and you should see your animal record there.

You can then go back into the animal record to edit or add other details such as growth, diet, photos etc. Remember to press edit button first.

TO TRANSFER AN ANIMAL TO ANOTHER CARER

1. Click on **ANIMAL RECORD NUMBER**
2. Click on **CARER** button
3. Click **ADD** – Add the **NAME OF THE CARER** the animal has been passed on to in the to section
4. Click **SAVE** – If you forget to hit SAVE your entry will be lost
5. Click **RETURN**

The animal will now appear in their records, not yours.

Woollies comes up with the goods again!

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

Pictured 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 Woollies!*



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

Education booklets and cards for kids available

Did you know that FRW has 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!

Contact Mel melvinmudie@bigpond.com or ask for them at our events.



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.

Heartwarming gesture of kindness for our local wildlife

Two local boys made a discovery on their property when they stumbled upon a sugar glider painfully tangled on barbed wire and in need of urgent assistance.

Acting from advice from the FRW team the boys covered and fashioned a sling to prevent the glider from hanging. With tender care, they waited until rescuer Denise arrived.

Upon Denise's return for the glider's release, she was pleasantly surprised to find aluminum pie dishes strategically positioned at various heights along the fence.

These simple yet effective measures will enhance the visibility of the barbed wire fence to wildlife, potentially reducing the risk of lethal entanglements. *Other methods include putting folded over electric tap markers, or tying tape along the top strand.*



It's important to make the top barbed wire strand visible.

This heartening gesture showcases the power of education and providing solutions, demonstrating that animal rescue is not just about the act itself, but also about informed action and thoughtful consideration.



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. As well as phoning rescuers, we can use our Messenger Group Chat to communicate rescue cases.

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

If you can help please contact the hotline or Leanne Grech (why4lg@hotmail.com)

If you'd like to help injured and orphaned possums please call Ailen 0439 926 521

From Dump to Dignity: The remarkable journey of possum resilience

In February, the Fauna Rescue Hotline received a distressing call about a possum discovered amidst the refuse of the Mackay dump. Lying flat and covered in a sticky, foul-smelling liquid, his chances of survival seemed bleak.

Zy, answering the call of duty, embarked on the rescue mission. The possum was then given to Ailen, though initial hopes were dim. For five days, Ailen bathed, groomed, and nursed him around the clock.

Then a glimmer of hope emerged. He lifted his head—a small but significant victory in his battle for survival.



Diesel 5 days after rescue



Diesel one week after rescue



Diesel one month after rescue

Thank you to the tireless efforts of those who stand as guardians of our wildlife, ensuring that every creature, no matter how small, has the opportunity to thrive.

Gold mine threatens environment in Dittmer

Plans for a gold mine in Dittmer have sparked concerns about its potential impact on our local environment. Situated within the Proserpine State Forest, which lies within the Great Barrier Reef and Peter Faust Dam Catchment – our primary source of drinking water – the project has raised significant environmental questions.

Long term Dittmer resident, Jeudi Croker is raising awareness. "The entire Dittmer community rely solely on underground water for drinking and household use with most homes having bores on their properties fed from fractured rock aquifers," she said.

The mine site is within the Proserpine catchment area which feeds into Prosperine Dam, providing drinking water to thousands of Whitsundays residents, as well as agricultural irrigation.

If the mine does resume, the method of extraction is likely to be via both cyanide leach and flotation processes.

Dittmer is home to FOUR ENDANGERED SPECIES, and their essential habitats fall under Federal EPBC Legislation as Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

This means any activity in these areas require a Federal EPBC Referral for approval. However, Ms Croker points out that they have not had confirmation that an EPBC referral has been done by Ballymores or Leanne Linard, Qld Minister for Environment.

Ms Croker says that the mining company operates under a surety bond of only \$18,000 and holds an Environmental Authority (EA) for exploration only. Despite this, they seek to expand their operations without additional conditions under the same EA, a decision set for 20th May 2024.

There is a current investigation into potential EA breaches, (environmental codes and regulations) including looking into alleged unauthorised clearing of essential habitat and vegetation in the State Forest. The Erosion from this NEW road clearing; into Kelsey Creek highlights disregard for water conservation and environmental regulations.

Questions have also been raised regarding a \$300,000 grant awarded to the mining company by the State Government, despite the mining lease not yet being approved.

To address concerns, a community meeting is scheduled with the Mayor and councillors at 4:30pm Monday, 15th April, at Healthy Haven Health Food Shop in Proserpine.

For those unable to attend, engagement is encouraged through

- the "stopthegoldmine" **Facebook page**, <https://www.facebook.com/stopthegoldmine>
- **a petition** signing on CHANGE.ORG,
- contacting relevant authorities to demand an immediate halt to the EA Amendment and REQUEST independent Environmental Impact Studies.

QLD minister of environment: Leanne Linard
email: environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au
(07) 3719 7330

QLD minister of Water Glen Butcher
email: regionaldevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au
(07) 3035 6170

Amanda Camm **Member for Whitsunday**
email: whitsunday@parliament.qld.gov.au
(07) 4845 3100

Scott Sullivan **Minerals and Northern Compliance**
email: scott.sullivan@des.qld.gov.au 0417 730 852
email: Ayla Turner Ayla.turner@des.qld.gov.au
(07) 4222 5439

The decision on this project is scheduled for 20th May 2024. Collective engagement is vital in safeguarding the interests of our wildlife and water sources for future generations.

More information at:

<https://www.facebook.com/stopthegoldmine>

Community meeting

with the Mayor and councillors

Monday, 15th April at 4:30 pm

at Healthy Haven Health Food Shop Proserpine.

This gathering presents an opportunity for community members to engage with local representatives and voice their concerns regarding the potential impacts of the gold mine project.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bandicoots have the shortest period of pregnancy of all mammals that lasts only 12 days.



BARBED WIRE CAN BE A PAIN!

Countless native animals die a slow, agonising death on barbed wire fences. 86% of these entanglements occur on the top strand. Fortunately you can help.

How you can help our wildlife

Consider whether you truly need barbed wire fences on your property. If you do, please consider **enhancing the visibility of the fence to help wildlife avoid it**. You can use old electric fencing tape or electrical tape to make the top strand more visible. More info, visit WildlifeFriendlyFencing.org

If you find an animal trapped in barbed wire, CALL US IMMEDIATELY on 4947 3389 – These creatures are experiencing excruciating pain and require urgent assistance.



24/7 Hotline: 4947 3389

FAUNA RESCUE
WHITSUNDAYS

www.frw.org.au

Whitsundays whale birthing sanctuary

Kellie Leonard – Hamilton Island

We received a call from a guest staying on Hamilton Island that a humpback whale looked to be in distress. It turned out to be extremely exciting news!

A humpback whale had just given birth in the channel between Hamilton and Whitsunday Islands. Then she brought her newborn into the protection of the shallow bay inside the white marker buoys, so she didn't have to worry about predators from below.

The calf was so fresh; his little dorsal fin was still floppy.

Humpback calves are born without buoyancy, so the mother has to help the calf for the first few weeks and lift it to the surface to breathe.

They are also born without insulation. Mum produces 600 litres of milk a day to feed her calf, which is important for his development.

He must learn life skills including how to slap his tail and breach to dislodge parasites to keep him healthy.

Even though Mum is doing all of this, she will not eat again until she migrates back to her feeding ground in the Antarctic. It's important she isn't harassed so she can save her energy reserves to keep her calf healthy.

Mum and calf stayed around Catseye Bay for around six weeks, with many guests and locals watching them from the comfort of their balconies and other vantage points around the island.

In the coming weeks, we had a lot more mums and calves using Hamilton Island as their nursery ground. For many years, it was never known where humpbacks gave birth, but since 2009 researchers have been putting the pieces together discovering it is right here in the Whitsundays.

The Whitsundays are the perfect location because it has deep troughs close to shallow ledges, where whales can give birth and then move the calf to shallow water.

It's significant that it has just been announced that the Whitsundays has become a 'Whale Heritage Site', the first ever in a 'World Heritage Area', and there is a special whale protection area zone in the Whitsundays.

In the Whitsundays, not only does the 300-metre exclusion zone apply to jet skis but to all vessels to protect the whales in the maternity and nursery area.

We are looking forward to welcoming the whales again in late May or early June.

HOW TO REPORT A WHALE STRANDING

As humpback whale numbers increase, it is likely that the number of strandings will also increase.

If you see a stranded whale, alive or dead, please report it immediately by calling **1300 130 372** and follow the advice of wildlife officers.

The person taking your call will require the following information:

- **LOCATION** (GPS coordinates if possible – use *Eye on the Reef* App map for coordinates)
- **DESCRIPTION OF WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE ANIMAL** (e.g. stranded on beach, injuries, entangled in a net, injured)
- **DESCRIPTION OF THE ANIMAL** (type of animal—dugong, turtle, whale, dolphin; condition; size and any identifying tags)
- **PHOTOS** (if available)
- **YOUR CONTACT DETAILS**

Report sick, injured or dead dugongs, dolphins, whales and marine turtles.

1300 130 372

TOLL FREE - 24 HOURS

GO SLOW FOR THOSE BELOW!

Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

Queensland
Government

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 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.

The Whitsundays is a **Whale Heritage Site**, the first ever in a **World Heritage Area**.

Wildlife volunteers are required on HAMILTON ISLAND. If you can help, please join us!

Barney overcomes her challenges

Kellie Leonard – Hamilton Island

The longest animal we have had in care and is still in care is a lorikeet. We rehabilitate a lot of lorikeets for broken beaks, broken wings, concussion, malnutrition, paralysis syndrome, or being orphaned. Some are with us for a couple of hours, days, or even months, but not this one.

This is Barney, named after her yellow chest, at various growth stages. She was just a little grey ball of fluff when she first came into our care, after being found on the ground during a terrible storm when she was only a couple of weeks old.

She slept in a cozy pouch in a heated box, being fed with a syringe. She then transitioned to spending time in a bigger box during the day and started practicing wing flapping, which was so cute.

Eventually, she graduated to a cage filled with native vegetation, mimicking what will be her food source in the wild, which needs to be constantly replenished. She is also still fed supplements like Wombaroo.

At four months old, she was not flying as well as she should be. We had her tested for Beak and Feather disease. The test came back 'not detected', which was a huge relief.

An avian vet nurse confirmed what we thought might be the problem - that she had a lack of sunlight as a baby due to the bad weather, and her flight feathers didn't develop properly. We had to continue giving her a very healthy diet and wait for her to molt the badly developed flight feathers and grow new ones. She now has healthy tail and wing feathers but needs to gain confidence and fitness to fly.

She has made friends with the local lorikeets who come to visit her and call out to her from the trees, which is a great sign that she will be accepted by this flock when released.

Raising her is only half of it. Preparing her to be able to survive in the wild is the other half. It's been eight months now, but hopefully, in a couple of weeks, we will release her directly from our balcony and she can join her friends.



If you'd like to help injured and orphaned birds please contact FRW Hotline

Channy's taste of freedom

Channy's brush with FRW all began when members of the public intervened to protect Channy from what they believed to be a menacing attack by crows.

Little did they know, those crows were likely his foster parents, as channel-billed cuckoos are known for their parasitic breeding habits.

Enter Neil, who rescued and raised Channy. As Channy grew under Neil's care, the time came for him to take the next step towards freedom.

Enter Kelly, whose flight aviaries and surroundings provided the perfect haven for Channy's soft release. With fig trees lining the nearby creek, Kelly's yard is ideal.

Channy often returns for top-up feeds and moments of respite. However, one day, he made a visit with a different purpose in mind.

A leaf, innocently clinging to Channy's bill, had become a perplexing nuisance.

Though not typically a touchy-feely bird, Channy allowed Kelly to gently remove the leaf, revealing that it was merely stuck on by sap!



Special recognition and farewell to Trish

This season has brought unexpected challenges, including the mysterious case of three severely malnourished baby bats anonymously left at a Mackay vet clinic.

Trish Goodwin, our highly skilled baby bat carer in Mackay, bravely accepted the challenge. Despite the daunting odds, Trish's dedication and expertise prevailed, and she successfully nursed them back to health.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Trish for her invaluable contributions. As she approaches her well-deserved retirement, we cannot express enough appreciation for her decades of incredible service. While we will miss her presence, we take solace in knowing that she will still be available to offer guidance and advice when needed. Trish, your legacy of compassion and commitment will continue to inspire us all.





Rollercoaster season for bat team: nurturing orphaned baby flying foxes

This season has tested the resilience of our bat team. With the onset of the orphaned baby flying fox season hitting us a month earlier than usual, it seemed the floodgates had opened and wouldn't relent.

Despite the challenges, the sheer joy of raising these orphaned babies until they reach their creche age and can take flight as young adults into the wild is the driving force behind our dedication.

Each orphaned baby bat brings with it a unique personality, forming close bonds with their human bat parents.

In the wild, around the age of three months, baby bats become too heavy for their mothers to carry, prompting them to start leaving their pups behind at night as they begin to explore flight independently.

This marks the onset of a period of 'tough love', during which we must gradually sever the human-bat bond.

It's a bittersweet moment, marked by the delivery of our growing pups to the creche aviary at Suzette and Adrian's, accompanied by a box of tissues to stem the tears. Farewell to cuddles and tummy tickles; it's time for our young charges to spread their wings and join their peers.

Around 10 weeks later, typically in mid-March, the time comes for the release of our young bats. With support food strategically hung in trees around the release cage, we bid them farewell as they embark on their journey back into the wild. Some take flight immediately, eager to join their kin, while others may linger for a month or more, gradually acclimatising before venturing forth to join the wild gang.

Despite the rollercoaster ride of this season, witnessing these young bats take flight and reintegrate into their natural habitat makes every challenge worthwhile.

As we reflect on the journey, we're reminded of the profound impact of our collective efforts in safeguarding the future of these remarkable creatures.

Here's to the resilience of our orphaned baby bats and the unwavering dedication of our bat group members in ensuring their successful transition back to the wild.

More flying fox carers are needed!

Baby bat caring is very rewarding and much needed. As for most animals, a secure and safe place in your house is all that is required.

Bat colonies are noisy and active places, so bat babies fit in with normal life in a house very well!

As well as raising baby bats, a more challenging job is caring for sick and injured adult bats. While the first few days might be quite difficult, as with any wild animal in pain, bats are highly intelligent and very quickly allow themselves to be handled - its as though they understand you're helping them! *And some treats of delicious fruit and smoothies help too of course.*

Bat carers must be vaccinated against *Lyssavirus*, a type of rabies. It's a safe and effective treatment and lasts for years before needing a booster.

Baby bats: Cathi Zanevra 0419922426
Adult bats: Suzette Pelt 0419768195



Drowning kookaburra rescued on Hammo

This unfortunate kookaburra was found drowning in a private pool on Hamilton Island, alongside his deceased mate.

He was exhausted, traumatised, cold, and had abrasions on his wings from unsuccessfully trying to get out of the pool.

Carers Kelli and Glen gave him a good bath, dried him off, and rested him in a quiet, comfortable box. After he had

rested, they transitioned him into a crate where he could perch but not use his wings.

With extremely strong winds forecast for the following week, they selected a release date once they were satisfied with how his abrasions were healing.

They wanted to give him a couple of days back in the wild to have a good feed of live insects and small lizards, and keep his condition up before having to bunker down during the strong winds.

If you'd like to help injured and orphaned birds please contact FRW Hotline



Volunteering: A personal journey of rescue and care

Welcome to Chrissie – our new FRW Secretary

Q: How long have you been volunteering for FRW?

I work alongside another FRW member, and she would often share photos and stories of the beautiful animals she had rescued or cared for over the years (Alison). The more she shared about her experiences, the more I wanted to become a volunteer myself. In January this year, we officially joined the FRW family; we're now active volunteers, and I also took on an additional role as the Secretary of the Committee, which I've thoroughly enjoyed so far.

Q: What made you decide to begin volunteering?

Our family spends a lot of time camping and going on adventures to different areas around our region. One of my passions is wildlife photography, so we often find ourselves lost in remote destinations, amidst untouched wildlife habitats.

Once, we came across a juvenile Osprey stuck in the mud in Bakers Creek; it was a terrible sight. He was half buried in thick mud and completely fatigued. We managed to dig him out of the bank before the tide came in and brought him home for a quiet and safe rest before a carer came to collect him for rehabilitation. We were happy to hear he was released a few weeks later in the Sarina Range.

Another really memorable experience for me (and I assume quite rare) was when we were taking a walk by the creek at dusk one evening and saw an unusual-looking animal swimming towards us from the opposite bank. We quickly made our way to the edge to get a closer look and couldn't believe our eyes. It was an echidna! It was swimming against the strong tidal current, poking its cute nose out every few seconds to take a breath. It made it to the water's edge near us, but the river bank was so eroded it kept tumbling and sliding back down to the water.

We quickly found some wood nearby and placed it carefully in the mud so the echidna could use it to climb up. It eventually made it to the top of the bank safely, and we watched on as it sniffed and dug around before making its way into the scrub.

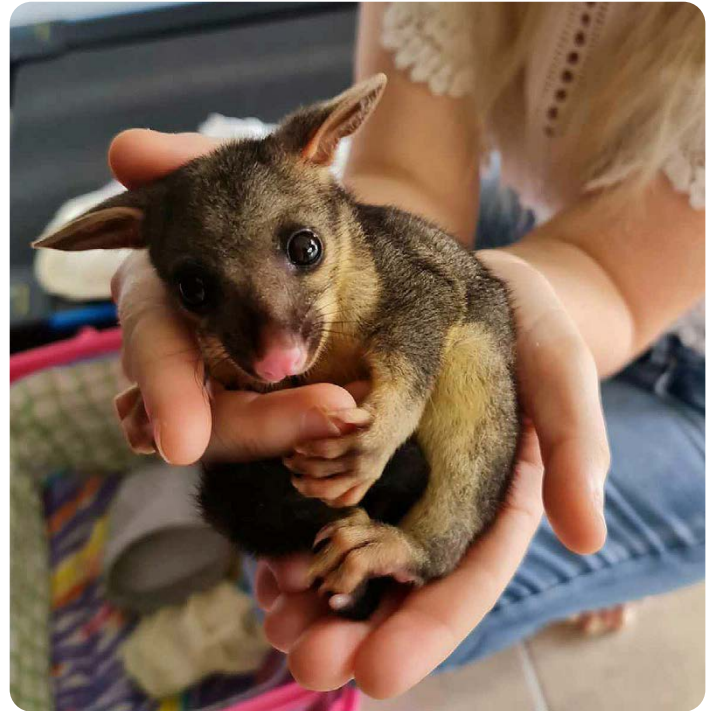
We've also rescued and temporarily cared for a few birds before (a very young figbird that was kicked out of its nest several times, a pheasant coucal who clipped the car in front of us, and even a pigeon that couldn't fly). I guess you could say we didn't choose to be volunteers; the animals chose us :)

Q: What have been the challenges?

initially I think the biggest perceived challenge was figuring out how I could volunteer around working full time and being a busy mum. Once I got started, I realised just how flexible and easy it was to volunteer and still feel like I'm making a meaningful difference, even with my limited capacity.

Q: What was your first rescue like?

I received a notification in the FRW RESCUE RESPONSE ALERT messenger group of an injured Ibis seen beside a busy road. It was about 2 kms down the road from me, and I hadn't had a chance to respond to any rescues yet, so I jumped at the opportunity to go. There was limited information as to where exactly the Ibis was, so the first challenge to find it. After driving to a couple of different spots in the area, I finally located the bird. It had clearly been hit by a car and was not in a good way. I had absolutely no idea how to capture the Ibis without causing further injury or pain.



Fortunately, an experienced rescuer, who knew I was new, offered to meet me at the location and gave me all the tools and info I needed to capture the bird and get it safely into the rescue basket. We did the rescue together, one of us carefully wrapping a towel over the bird's wings while the other covered the beak to prevent it from accidentally hurting us in the process.

We swiftly transferred the Ibis into the rescue basket and immediately took it to the vet for an assessment, where its pain was managed before it unfortunately passed away.

Although it didn't end well for the Ibis, we were able to prevent it from laying in the hot sun on the side of the road, stressed and suffering in pain. This experience gave me a lot more confidence in attending to rescue call-outs, especially having hands-on support from experienced volunteers.

Q: Is there any advice you can give to others, based on your own experience?

Don't be shy. Reach out and ask if you can assist with or shadow rescues if you are nearby or available. Not only will you meet other members, but this will enable you to learn from experienced volunteers how best to capture injured, sick, or orphaned wildlife safely and what steps to take once you have them.

You are not alone; there are lots of incredibly skilled and experienced volunteers available to answer your questions. They are all extremely friendly and have advice they are willing to share to help you become a confident and capable rescuer and/or carer.

As the Secretariat, I am also aware of many resources available to our volunteers that can help with rescuing and caring for our precious wildlife. We have Species Liaison Officers (SLOs) who can provide expert advice on what equipment and food items you might need to begin caring for different wildlife.

For information on the SLOs and for a list of cheap food and equipment supplies, please don't hesitate to send me an email via frwsecretary@gmail.com

Missy's journey: From orphaned possum to thriving

Chrissie

Recently, we took in a little orphaned possum; my daughter named her 'Missy'. Missy was only 177g when she arrived and has been absolutely thriving on her milk and more recently, pureed sweet potato and pumpkin.

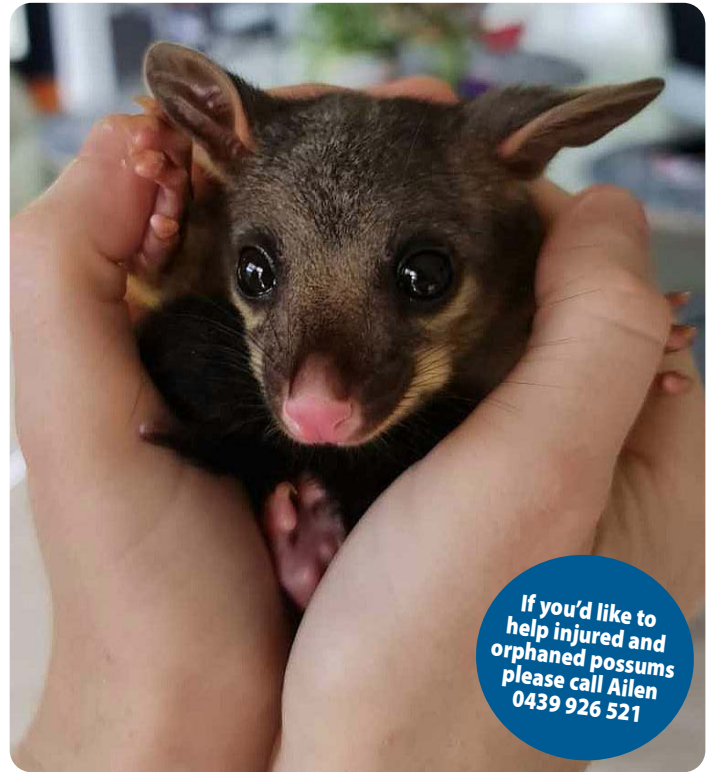
In just two short weeks, she has already grown so much! Her coat is much softer/fluffier, she's a lot more playful, incredibly sweet, but also has a super cheeky character, and now weighs 222g.

She's doing so well, in fact, she has just been upgraded to a big cage over the Easter break and is absolutely loving her new possum palace that was kindly donated from the Animal Rescue Corporation (ARC).

The buddy system that FRW has in place has made this such an easy and stress-free experience.

Alison and Ailen the Possum Species Liaison Officer have been incredible in helping us to look after Missy correctly, giving us education on feeding, toileting, housing, sleeping, etc., and checking in regularly to see how she is doing and if we have any questions.

Missy has already brought so much joy to our lives, and we're incredibly thrilled to be able to give her a warm, safe home where she can grow big and strong, and one day be ready to be released.



Did you know?

Unlike cuckoos, pheasant coucals don't lay their eggs in other birds' nests. It builds its own nest, the male sits on the eggs, and he and his mate for life will raise their own young.

They are ground feeders and mostly eat large insects, frogs, lizards, eggs and chicks and, sometimes, small mammals.

FRW sees a number of these birds as patients each year as they often are hit by cars or attacked by dogs or cats.



FUN FACT: Green tree frogs can live up to 20 years. They are nocturnal and come out in early evenings to call (in spring and summer) and hunt for food.

Creating wildlife-friendly habitat in your backyard

Our native animals all need native plants. The survival of our wildlife depends upon vegetation to provide food, shelter and a place for them to live and grow.

A native garden with trees, shrubs, ground cover, worms, spiders, insects, lizards, birds and mammals replicates a small forest. Virtually maintenance free, it can provide shade and wind and noise barriers. A whole suburb of native plant gardens can be just as important for nature conservation as a national park.

Corridors of natural vegetation along a water course, fence line or roadside is vital for the movement of wildlife.

THE THRILL OF THE CHASE TURNS DEADLY

FRW is a non-profit, voluntary group who cares for and rehabilitates sick, injured and orphaned native animals.

For more info on how you can help go to: www.frw.org.au

Be a responsible pet owner and keep your dogs and cats supervised. DON'T let them chase and stress native animals.

Myopathy in wallabies, pademelons and kangaroos happens when the animal is under extreme stress, such as being attacked or chased by a dog.

From within 24 hours up to a few weeks after the incident, the animal will show stiffness and hindquarter paralysis, progressing to complete paralysis. It will be distressed and anxious and salivate excessively. **It will die 2-14 days after.**



HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR WILDLIFE

Plant native vegetation: Plant native flowers, shrubs, and trees to attract local wildlife.

Avoid chemicals: Use natural or organic alternatives.

Provide nesting sites: Install birdhouses, bat boxes, or insect hotels.

Keep your cats indoors

Maintain a wildlife-friendly garden: Leave some of your garden wild, with tall grasses or shrubs providing habitats for insects and wildlife. Trim rather than cut down a tree; older trees provide hollows and habitats that serve as vital homes for wildlife during nesting.



24/7 Hotline: 4947 3389

FAUNA RESCUE
WHITSUNDAYS

www.frw.org.au

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Can you donate disused electric fence tape to help our wildlife?

FRW needs donations of disused electric fence tape to make hazardous barbed wire strands more visible to our vulnerable wildlife.

Each year, countless native animals such as birds, gliders and flying foxes are ensnared in barbed wire fences – the wire is difficult to see.

Marking hazardous sections of barbed wire fencing with visible tape can substantially reduce horrific casualties.

Survival rates for barbed wire casualties is below 50%, as they are often left with distressing, excruciating injuries, and dehydration.

If you have, or know of somebody who has, some disused tape kicking around, please consider donating—it's great to recycle and show kindness to wildlife!

***If you can donate, please contact the hotline on 4947 3389 or Cathi 0419 922 426.**



Attaching fencing tape to the top wire makes it more visible.



Another good solution is electrical tape!

Contacts:

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- Committee Member** - Neil Maycock (neilm36090667@gmail.com)



2022
1 Sep – 31 Dec

2023
1 Sep – 31 Dec

Bats in FRW care

FUN FACT: Approximately 90% of the animals native to Australia are found nowhere else, including the kangaroo, koala, echidna, dingo, platypus, wallaby and wombat.

FRW needs rescue drivers

Do you have a car and are available to help rescue and deliver injured wildlife?

Many hands make light work. It's a great way to help - and you can work whichever days suit you!

If you can help, even just occasionally, please call the Hotline.



HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR LOCAL WILDLIFE

Plant Native Vegetation:

- Plant native flowers, shrubs, and trees to attract local wildlife, including pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Avoid Chemicals:

- Use natural or organic alternatives to pesticides and fertilisers to avoid harming wildlife that may come into contact with treated areas.

Provide Nesting Sites:

- Install birdhouses, bat boxes, or insect hotels to offer shelter and nesting spaces for different species.

Maintain a Wildlife-Friendly Garden:

- Leave some areas of your garden wild with tall grasses or shrubs, providing habitats for insects, birds, and small mammals.



What FRW does

- We rescue, rehabilitate and release sick, injured or orphaned wildlife as appropriate and in accordance with the Carer's Code of Practice requirements.
- We promote and support endangered wildlife.
- We encourage and support efforts to protect the natural environment and it's inhabitants.
- We work with other animal rescue groups, vets, QPWS, Council and other environmental protection groups.
- We encourage the valuable participation of members of our community in all of our aims and activities.
- Through our school and community education project we give informative talks and displays to local schools and any other interested community organisations.
- We provide a 24/7 wildlife hotline service. This service is manned by volunteers on a roster system and is a valuable community aid as well as being instrumental in animals receiving timely and appropriate care.

Volunteer for wildlife, FRW need help! Go to our website and join!