



Issue 2 | August 2018



Servicing the Moreton Bay Region

Hotline: 0400836592

CONTENT

President's Address	Page 02
AGM Report	Page 03
Training News	Page 04
Training News continued...	Page 05
Queensland Koala Crusaders	Page 06
The Importance of Australia's Flying-foxes	Page 07
The Importance of the Rescue	Page 08
The Importance of the Rescue continued...	Page 09
Members Profile	Page 10
Fundraising, Donations and Thanks	Page 11
Supporting Partners	Page 12



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Welcome everyone to our second issue of Wildlife Matters. Both Craig and I have moved into our new property in Narangba. Thank you for your support and understanding during this move, it sure has been an epic journey for us. The two of us and our animals are settling in well and look forward to what the future will bring.

I would like to welcome the returning committee that were re elected at the AGM held in May. I am excited to work together to help achieve better outcomes for the group and the wildlife of our region. We have made some big decisions for the greater good of the group at the AGM and we are all working hard to action these decisions behind the scenes. I look forward to our change of name. The committee have been working hard to ready ourselves for the appointment of our new name and have updated our policies and procedures to reflect our growing organisation. The ground work has been completed to develop our new webpage that will be launched once the name change confirmation comes through from the Office of Fair Trading.

I would also like to take a moment to welcome all of our new members and look forward to working alongside you all.

It was a privilege to be invited and attend the 2018 Koala Collab at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary on the 19th July along with one of our group's Koala carers Angela Christodoulou. It was very informative and exciting to see the progress that is being made in the treatment of Koala diseases, although at times concerning when you sit back and really reflect on what these wonderful animals are facing because of the degradation of their habitat. Loss of habitat, including loss of food and shelter, is a major stress for Koalas. During times of stress, Koalas are prone to outbreaks of the disease Chlamydia. Chlamydia is a bacterial infection which affects almost all Koalas in South East Queensland. The disease weakens their immune system and causes various problems, including blindness and female infertility. In severe cases, it can cause death. Infertility from Chlamydia is a contributing factor to the decline in Koala numbers in our region. It was wonderful to see that we have some amazing scientists and researchers working hard to find solutions alongside our wildlife hospitals. Let's hope we can save them for our future generations.

Our busy season with rescues has really started early this year. We have been inundated with rescues and babies coming into care. Thank you to all our wonderful carers who have accepted animals to rehabilitate. Please remember your mentors are only a phone call away should you be requiring further support. Thank you to our mentors for sharing your knowledge and making yourself available to new carers. Please make Lorna aware if you have space and capacity for additional animals.

I am very excited to move forward with the group and work on bigger and better things for us.

Kind Regards,

Byron Cann
President, BDWR



AGM REPORT

Thanks you to everyone that was able to attend the AGM this year on the 27th May. It was wonderful to see everyone there and make some good decisions for the best interest of the group. Thank you to our guests from BIEPA for attending. It was wonderful to have both Kay and Kathleen there and again thank you for BIEPA's ongoing support. We would like to welcome back the returning committee to the group;

- 🐾 President: Byron Cann
- 🐾 Vice-President: Lorna Mitchell
- 🐾 Secretary: Angela Hales
- 🐾 Treasurer: Susie Bell

Byron was able to update the group on what has been happening over the past 12 months and was pleased to advise on the extension to the rehabilitation permit to cover specialist species. The group has also purchased an education trailer from BCRQ and are in the process of fitting it out to service the group's needs. Byron also explained his ongoing efforts to work with other wildlife organisations in an effort to break down past issues and work together for the best interests of wildlife this has been an ongoing effort and is working well.

Financials of the group were reported on by the group's treasurer Susie Bell and over the year we had in excess of \$4000 in donations and had raised \$2300 through sausage sizzles and raffles. The secretary reported on her efforts in working with local schools on donations through free dress days and further fundraising efforts.

The group passed a special resolution to change the group's name to "Wildlife Rescue Queensland Incorporated". This was passed and is now in the process of being actioned. It is the hope that through the name change better opportunities for grants will become available and the committee felt that this name better reflects the group and its members. It was also agreed upon that we would also launch a new phone number when the new name comes into action.

It was highlighted at the AGM that more and more work needs to be put into fundraising efforts. The idea of doing fundraising through the design and production of clothing was brought to the AGM and was well received by all present. Katrina is working hard to get this off the ground and we look forward to its success.

The committee is looking forward to working with the group, its members and external partners to assist in delivering the best outcomes for the wildlife that we care for.



TRAINING NEWS

The Reptile and Possum & Glider Workshops were held on the 30th of June and the 1st of July and was presented by Dr. Robyn Stenner. We had an absolutely fantastic turnout with 24 people attending the Reptile Workshop and 54 people attending the Possum and Glider Workshop. We had many people attend from other groups, which was lovely to see.

A big thank you to everyone involved in coordinating the event, organising registrations, catering and other administrative tasks. Putting together a weekend of training such as this takes a lot of effort by many people.



Reptile Workshop in progress



Some attendees from the Reptile Workshop



Angela our Committee Secretary keeping us all well fed for the two days of Workshops.



This is Di, our main Hotline operator (left) and our Treasurer Susie (right)



A busy day with 54 at the Possum and Glider Workshop



Dr Robyn Stenner delivering great education.

TRAINING NEWS continued...



PLANT & FOOD WORKSHOP

On the 29th of July, we held the Plant & Food Workshop.



Jacqui and Julie presented a fantastic workshop. They shared a wealth of knowledge with everyone. Feeding animals in care appropriately is one of the keys to success. The information shared will make a positive impact on all animals in care.

We need your help! Emergency Rescue

We are only 6 weeks away from Orphan Season for our Bats. Now is the time when we welcome any interested carers to start their training to work with bats and during this learning process we can go through what is required.

We are also desperately looking for carers in the group who would like to be part of our EMERGENCY RESCUE team for wildlife crisis situations such as heat events and bush fires. Training will be provided.



QUEENSLAND KOALA CRUSADERS

Another fabulous care group we interact with.

Queensland Koala Crusaders is an incorporated not for profit association dedicated to improving koala conservation efforts – both for individuals and as a species.

Our mission is to be “A Voice for the Koala”.

We work collaboratively with other conservation and community groups as well as local governments focusing on improving the lives of koalas in need and the sustainability of koalas in the wild through a variety of initiatives and methods.

Our members engage directly with - and educate others - regarding best practices in observation, mapping, rescue, rehabilitation and release of koalas.

We also seek to facilitate fresh cooperative approaches to the chronic challenges regarding the sustainability of the wild koala as a species with an emphasis on communication and collaboration between all stakeholders and groups.

While we participate in many different activities our three main goals are to:

- Work with other community and conservation groups to build a national alliance and stronger voice for koala conservation efforts as well as a network of skilled local resources to respond to wild koalas in need
- Create a local koala sanctuary and community centre providing a “soft release” location for koalas who have been in care and need a transition before returning to the wild including facilities for non-releasable koalas
- Facilitate the creation and ongoing maintenance of additional suitable habitat and connecting corridors for koalas and other native species through a mix of land use designations and acquisitions.
- We were founded in 2012 by a group of koala carers whose experience ranged over three decades and met while working at the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital.

Concerned that in all that time no real progress had been made toward conserving one of Australia’s unique icons and most beloved native species – and having seen their suffering and decline accelerate - we determined to create a group that would focus only on what was best for the koala!

In August 2012 we brought together a group of scientists, noted conservationists, and government representatives for a Sunshine Coast Koala Summit. Many of our recommendations from that initiative have now been incorporated into koala management plans by local councils including both Noosa and Sunshine Coast but is it enough? We wish to explore how we can do better by acting locally and thinking globally.

QKC was also fundamental in the foundation of the National Koala Alliance (nka) whose charter includes working on behalf of koala conservation and welfare nationally and whose membership includes a multitude of conservation groups. We have also been active within the land clearing alliance to help stem the decline of habitat across Queensland.

More recently we have partnered with Noosa District Land Care, Noosa Parks Association and Noosa Council in securing substantial funding from the Body Shop UK that will enable the planting of over 12,000 koala food trees and help reinstate over 30 hectares of koala habitat.

Ongoing Activities Include:

Meeting with relevant local, state and federal government representatives seeking to increase awareness and stimulate effective actions

Coordinating and collaborating with other groups and organizations, including Noosa District Land Care, Wildcare Australia, The University of the Sunshine Coast, Wildlife HQ, Koala Tracker, RSPCA, Endeavour Veterinary Ecology, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and many more promoting partnership and cooperative efforts.

Engaging in educational presentations for local schools and community groups as well as sponsoring events, such as Concerts for Koalas, Koala Kids Day at the 2017 Noosa Alive! Festival and the Children’s Writing Competition and more.

Providing Community resources for rescue and care including contact information for regions throughout Queensland.

Seeking to create a coordinated rescue and rehabilitation network to ensure best practices and response times throughout for koalas and all wildlife living under their umbrella.



THE IMPORTANCE OF AUSTRALIA'S FLYING-FOXES

We asked Denise from another care group for some words of wisdom.

As Australia's only nocturnal, long distance pollinators and seed disperser of native forests, flying-foxes play an integral part in maintaining the health and biodiversity of our native forests. Queensland is home to four large species of flying-foxes with two species, Grey-headed and Spectacled flying-foxes federally listed as vulnerable to extinction.

There are many hazards to our bats including entrapment in barbed wire fencing and large aperture anti bird netting thrown over backyard fruit trees, electrocution on overhead powerlines, more frequent and severe heat and starvation events, car hits, predator attacks and many other causes.

We can all adopt simple measures to help protect our flying-foxes by never using large aperture anti bird netting and instead choosing shade cloth type netting that is safe for birds, snakes and bats. Any netting that you can poke a finger through is extremely dangerous to all species of wildlife but it is especially dangerous to hungry flying-foxes who see and smell ripening fruit and do not recognise the dangers.

Remove barbed wire fencing but if that is not possible, just the removal of the top strand may significantly lessen your chances of catching a flying-fox or other species of wildlife.

Never plant fruiting or flowering shrubs or trees next to barbed wire fencing as bats are drawn to these and they may become entangled often with fatal outcomes.

Ensure pets are kept inside or away from feed trees at night and report any bat on powerlines into a rescue service especially during the summer months when there may be a live baby tucked up under a dead mum's wing.

The vast majority of babies survive the electrocution of their mother and although they may be difficult to spot up there on the powerlines, a simple phone call can save a baby's life.

Community fears about perceived disease risks from flying-foxes have done much to vilify a keystone species and the simple rule of thumb for all bats is, 'No touch, no risk'.

As we rapidly approach another summer orphan season, please spread the good word about bats and remind people to call in any flying-fox by itself through the day as it is in trouble and it needs help.

In this era of climate change, flying-foxes are a shining light of hope as their pollination and seed dispersal activities ensure a future for Australia's forests.

Denise Wade

Batzilla the Bat on FB.



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESCUE



One of the frequently performed roles of a Wildlife Carer is performing rescues of injured or orphaned wildlife. Many of us know that all too familiar feeling of seeing the hotline number show up on our phone and wondering what animal emergency might be awaiting us. Injured wildlife calls occur at any time of the night or day and the important thing to remember is that it is usually an emergency. An animal needs our help and time is of the essence. For new carers the first few rescues can spark quite a lot of mixed emotion. Will I know enough? What if I don't know what to do? For this reason we recommend that new carers ask their mentor if they can tag along with them for the first few rescues. That way you will get to see where the animal hospital is located, the way the mentor deals with the member of public, how the animal is captured and transported appropriately. If you are a new or experienced carer on a rescue and are faced with a situation that you are unsure about in any way then please feel free to phone myself, Lorna on 0429810322 (Save the numbers in your phone now, so you have them for when you need it. You can also text videos of the animal if you are unsure about anything.) Not all animals need to be rescued and if in doubt call!

Always remember that 'With experience comes knowledge!' Every situation is different, and some are very challenging.

Safety

The number one priority during any rescue is always your safety and that of the people around you. We often attend rescues beside roads, so above all else, be careful. Always make sure someone is aware where you are going and always give them a courtesy call to let them know when you have left the site.

Receiving a Call

Remember many hands make light work. It is best for everyone when we can share the workload of rescues so it is not just coming down to a few people to do all the call outs. When you see the hotline is ringing please answer it. The animal that is injured will be very grateful to you!

Transferring the Animal

- * It's important to transport all animals appropriately. Timely and proper transfers after a rescue can sometimes be the difference between life and death for an animal. Remember, they are wild animals! They are frightened and stressed and we need to do everything we can to minimise the distress they are already in.
- * Keep them Warm (In most cases animals that have been rescued will require heating to keep them warm. Shock causes the animals body temperature to drop, therefore we need to keep them warm)
- * Keep them Secure (In a pouch or rescue basket that is appropriate for the animal. Always cover the basket with a towel or sheet to avoid the animal being able to see out. Looking out and seeing people only causes more stress.)
- * Keep them Quiet (Avoid loud music in the car or loud phone calls, avoid having any animals in the vicinity and avoid kids or other people from looking at them.)

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESCUE continued...

Important things to remember:

- It is our policy to ensure we always take animals that we rescue up to the Australia Zoo Animal Hospital for assessment. They are properly checked over by professionals to ensure they do not have any internal injuries which are not visible to us.
- Call the Animal Hospital to let them know you are coming on 54362340.
- Emergency Triage appointments do not need appointments, however it is always courtesy to let them know and allow them to get prepared for your arrival.
- Note the exact location the animal is being rescued from, so it may be released back into the same area.
- Always notify the hotline when making trips up to the Animal hospital.
- Remember to write down the Accession number of the animal so you can check the outcome or take a picture of the admission form.
- Always assess if the animal is in a viable state. If it is in extreme suffering remember that we have trauma carers in our group that are permitted to euthanise and can end their suffering if needed.
- Assess the animal from afar so you can tell the animal hospital what you saw.
- Animals see us as predators, they do not think that we are trying to help them. Stroking them and patting their head only causes them more distress.
- Get a towel or blanket to cover animals as quick as possible. If it is a kangaroo beside the road, try to cover it and move away till further assistance arrives.
- Remove all threats from around the animal, dogs, cats, kids and spectators.
- Bat rescues are only performed by special carers who are immunised and trained.

The Rescue Kit (every car should have one)

- Towel or Blanket (to cover injured animals, to help with the capture and to cover the transport cages)
- Torch (preferably a Head Lamp so you still have both hands free)
- Heat Source (Wheat Pack, Hot water bottle, Instant heat packs, Plug in car heat pads, to use during the transport)
- Disposable Gloves
- Scissors, Safety pins, Clamp for Removal of Joeys from pouches if attached (Must call for advice if you haven't performed this)
- Cardboard Box for transporting Birds
- Plastic Rescue Box for transporting Possums
- Various sizes of pouches
- Pink Spray Paint (To mark the body of animals we have checked for Joeys with an X which alerts other carers that the animal has already been checked)
- Thick Protective Gloves
- High Visibility Safety Vest (to stand out when doing roadside rescues)



MEMBERS PROFILE

Marg Snowden

Tell us a little about yourself. My name is Margaret Ann Snowden and I was born, reared and educated in Sydney. I am the third child of five, the other four being boys. I think I must have been a tom boy as I remember hearing my mum say I was more full on than all the boys put together. Believe me there was some good competition between us at times.

As a school child I dreamed of being a glamorous air hostess for a while and after that phase maybe a fashion model. The last months of school with the nuns convinced me that to enter the convent was my real vocation and I would have looked beautiful wearing a floating veil looking very mysterious. Then when I started to mature hm hm, my love of animals, which came through from my dad and Grandma, allowed me to have aspirations of studying to be a veterinarian, but unfortunately family circumstances prevented that.

What was your occupation? My school education finished at fifteen and like the others, I had to get a job and earn a living. I worked in retail as a shop assistant until the age of eighteen when I was old enough to enter the nursing profession, so off I went. It was so unreal to have so many girls fussing around, laughing and joking, something I was not used to. In those days trainees had to live in the nurses dormitory which was so much fun, great friendships were formed and we supported for each other, I loved it. The hours were long, broken shifts, lousy money, strict rules and I was always hungry, but I studied hard and valued my chance at further education. The training took over four years to graduate and then I could finally wear my well earned sisters veil. At thirty five I took a step sideways and returned as a mature student to attain my certificate as a midwife. The last ten years of my working life was involved in post graduate education which really meant a lot to me. In total I worked in nursing for fifty consecutive years.

In 1965 I married and had two children and continued to live in Sydney, until Henry and I migrated over the border to Bribie Island in 2002. We have loved every minute of our time here.

How long have you been with BDWR? From the very beginning in a way. One day I was looking through the local paper and I saw an expression of interest ad to form a wildlife group on the island, so I picked up the phone. The inaugural meeting was held at our home and whilst I was in the kitchen I was nominated and seconded for the position of Vice President. Holy moly! I began reading whatever I could find on native animals in our area, attended as many workshops as I could and then starting looking after birds and older baby possums.

Do you have a favourite animal? All are on my list but I'm most comfortable with bats as I have worked with them for about ten years and know them a lot better. I met my very first bat at a workshop, it was the most beautiful intriguing little thing I had ever seen. 'What is it?' I asked, I'd never seen or heard of them. It turned out to be a microbat and I was completely fascinated and wanted to learn more about them.

Twelve months later while on holiday in Thailand, I was bitten by a baby tiger (long story) and hence had to have a course of Rabies vaccinations. On my return home after telling my story to a friend they informed me that if I wanted to explore the bat world, it was the perfect time as I had already been vaccinated. Yahoo!

I joined a bat care group that resonated with me because they also believed in community education. I could not see any point in rehabilitation then release without trying to relate the importance of Bats to the wider community. I remember I was so excited when I was to meet my first big bat. I was all enthusiastic as I entered the enclosure and then proceeded to freeze. There was this massive big black bat looking down at me and starting to move slowly forward. I had to get out of there!! Fast forward and little did I know, it was Gilbert, the most placid, calm, gorgeous, entertainer who I would go on to take with me to events and educational talks for a few years. He played to his audiences and taught me so much about his world.

What is one of your favourite wildlife stories? Bat rescues can be dramatic and creative at times. One rescue was when two little reds were caught in netting about eight meters high. After an hour of trying all sorts of things I heard a loud noise coming from behind and when I looked back it was Henry driving a cherry picker around the corner. The bats and Henry were rescued in the dark.

Do you have any advice for new carers? Make friends with your mentor and respect other members. Look after your own mental health and learn to say no comfortably. I have cried many times during my career as a nurse and when coming to terms with losing an animal. Make sure you look after yourself and always keep your education current through reading and listening and asking questions,? Be patient and don't think you can learn it all in a few weeks. Get involved and stay away from the politics.

Marg
Battyoldbat



A thoughtful moment



Elena my first baby Nov 09



above and beyond the call of duty's

FUNDRAISING, DONATIONS AND THANKS

Over the last few months we were invited to give a talk at two organisations on Bribie. The Bribie Island Pensioners Association and Bribie Island Healthy Slimmers. It was a great opportunity on both occasions to spread the word about our group, what we do, and to give some helpful tips that may help to save some wildlife in the future, such as checking pouches, planting more native plants and putting up possum boxes etc. We were given a donation from both groups and have sent out Appreciation Certificates.

We would like to say a very big thank you to Jan Webster from Kangaroo Bus Lines who has been sewing some beautiful and extra warm pouches for our possums and macropods in care. These pouches have been distributed out to several of our Macropod Carers.



We've been selected to participate in Local Matters at Grill'd North Lakes this August!

Local Matters is the Grill'd community donation program that sees each Grill'd restaurant donate \$500 back into the community every month. The donation is split between 3 local community groups \$300 / \$100 / \$100.

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

We'd love your support in receiving the highest \$300 donation! Simply head to Grill'd North Lakes during August for a burger and pop your Local Matters token in our jar. The group with the most tokens at the end of the month receives the largest donation.

It's a simple (and delicious) way to show your support!

You'll find us on a jar at Grill'd North Lakes, Shop 1138, Westfield North Lakes Shopping Centre Cnr Anzac Drive North Lakes.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



Lions Morayfield



BIEPA



Moreton Bay Regional Council



RSPCA QLD



Australia Zoo



Sunshine Coast Wildlife Rescue



Katrinas Skinworks



Marguerita's Dynamic Ceramics



Apex Building Products



Koala Crusaders

Gympie A.N.A.R.R.A.

Wallum Action Group