



wildlife matters...

PP# 100020200

Sydney Wildlife Newsletter

Summer 2016 Edition



Photo by Danni Ward

Message from your Board

For most people, the end of a year and the beginning of a new one brings reflection, relief and a well earned break. But not for wildlife carers.

Heat stress, fires, young animals taking their first wobbly steps to independence and snakes innocently terrifying young children help to make summer one of the busiest times.

As much as we love looking after our native critters, it would really be better they didn't need to come into care.

Here are a few messages we would like you to pass onto friends and neighbours, to make our lives easier.

- * Keep your pets in at night, and always keep your dog on a lead if you are passing through an area with a lot of bush.
- * Leave out water in your garden during summer for animals to drink
- * If you use netting on your fruit and vegetables, make sure that is wildlife safe so animals don't get tangled up in it
- * Drive carefully on your travels, and if you see an injured animal report it. If you are outside Sydney, you can use the IFAW Wildlife Rescue app to find the local wildlife group.
- * Remember that marsupials hit by a car may have living pouch young, and bats caught on powerlines may have living pups.

Have a great summer, and try to squeeze in time with family and friends between feeds and collecting foliage. Summer may be busy, but its also the time that many humans are at their most agreeable.

We hope to see you back -bright eyed and busy-tailed - in 2016.

Hotline Help

Answering the hotline is both interesting and rewarding, exposing you to a wide range of rescue situations. We answer over 12,000 calls a year and we need your help.

Members are needed 7 days a week, including overnight. Daytime shifts in the Lane Cove office 9am - 1pm and 1pm - 5pm. Overnight from the comfort of your own home with all lists provided.

It's simple to book and manage your shifts using our online roster system. Log into Volunteer Spot, view available shifts and book. It can be used on your smart phone or ipad.

You can manage your shift bookings, swap with other members and receive automatic email reminders of their shift bookings.

If you don't have access to a computer the Roster Coordinators can still book shifts for members who don't have Internet access.

You can be scheduled for a shift with an experienced operator to get the training necessary for the busy months.

Weekdays

Jenny Sistrom 9456 3069
smwsweekdayroster@gmail.com

Weekends/After Hours

Carolyn Martin 9440 8233
smwsweekendroster@gmail.com
smwsafterhours@gmail.com

Gliding Home



Now that we have expanded our facility to include all native wildlife, we have been very busy with quite a few different species being rehabilitated. We were lucky enough to be able to assist in the final rehabilitation stage for three elusive Sugar Gliders. Prior to coming to our facility, they had been handraised by one of our wonderful Sydney Wildlife volunteer carers. Two of them came into care after their home was destroyed and one had been caught by a cat. When they were approaching

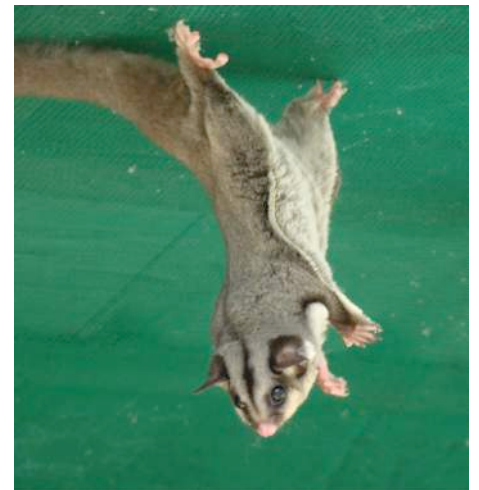
time for their release they were brought to our facility for rehabilitation where they stayed for a couple of months building up their muscle strength and foraging skills.



As they are mostly active at night, we were able to watch them on the infrared motion activated wildlife cameras we purchased from donations, this showed us how quick they were moving around the facility and successfully finding their food.

Once it was determined they were ready to be released they were caught, weighed

and then transported to the other side of Sydney for release back where they originated. The nesting box they used whilst in rehabilitation was secured in a suitable tree and they were put back into it giving them a familiar base to release from. The release site was on a property where people could



visually keep an eye on the movements of the sugar gliders. After release, they were seen returning to their box on and off before eventually disappearing to start their new life.

Joan Reid - Volunteer Macropod Co-ordinator





Send in your stories

Kukundi Update

Our hard working bat carers are gearing up for a busy season, with the first tiny babies already coming into care. Last season we had exactly 100 pups through Kukundi.

62 were *Pteropus alectos* (blacks, most from the heat stress event in Casino) and 38 were *Pteropus poliocephalus* (greys, mainly from Sydney). Some had been rescued and raised by Sydney Wildlife carers, and some were brought to Kukundi by their WIRES carers.

Fortunately we had our lovely new aviary in action, and had done some essential repairs on the flight aviary, so we coped well with the influx. The blacks were chauffeured back north for release (imagine 62 bats in the back of a car!), while the greys were released into the Gordon camp.

Bat care is a year-round task, as adults get tangled in netting, zapped on powerlines and attacked by raptors, but from November to May is particularly hectic. That's when the Sydney bat

population is at its highest, and when pups are being born and raised. The heartless bat "dispersals" that have taken place recently will no doubt lead to an increase in the number of pups coming into care. If you're a trained bat person, please make sure your titres are up to date, and your coordinator is aware of your availability, because you'll definitely be needed.

If you're not able to care for pups, you can still be of great help at Kukundi or one of the other facilities. Once the pups have gone into crèche (late January) there are three daily tasks: cleaning cages, chopping fruit, and hanging it out for the bats. The cleaning and hanging shifts can only be done by vaccinated members, but anyone can chop fruit. If you're a new or existing member, and want to help and/or learn more about bat care, please call Diane Jenner on 0403 071 375. Any help at any time will always be appreciated.

Without your valuable support, the work we do rescuing and rehabilitating native animals would not happen. Thank you for everything that you do for **Sydney Wildlife**.

Have you done a rescue lately or raised funds for **Sydney Wildlife**? Did you volunteer on the hotline and have a funny story? Are you educating the public about our native animals or know of any companies that might sponsor us? Do you know some interesting animal facts, write poetry or have taken some great photos?

I am looking for all your wonderful stories and more. Please send to robynsmws@hotmail.com.

Robyn Ball

Marketing, Media and Fundraising.

NOTE: by sending your stories and images, you are granting the release of copyright of content and images as they may be published in Wildlife Matters, Sydney Wildlife Members only Facebook page, general Facebook page, other media and fundraising opportunities that may arise. They will only be used to promote Sydney Wildlife. I will contact you directly if a media outlet wants a particular story for print media, TV or radio.



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Dogs and Koalas don't mix!



Anna came into care about 7 months ago from a member of the public who found her on the side of a road in Ruse. She was young and would of probably just been weaned from mum. She came into the care of Sydney Wildlife for some fattening up and strength building at a soft release site. She was a success story and eventually released herself and went on her merry little way.

Sadly Tuesday I received a call that a koala was attacked by a dog and it turned out to be Anna. She was alive when I got there but passed away as the vets were working on her due to massive internal injuries.

Dog attacks on koalas are nearly always fatal. I thought this might be a good opportunity to raise awareness for people to be alert and if they live in koala populated areas lock up dogs at night and investigate any barking and disturbance.

Anna is the 2nd koala in 2 months to be attacked in the same street in Wedderburn. Here are some tips from the save the koala foundation regarding dogs and Koalas.

- Check trees for Koalas before leaving dogs unattended in your yard.
- If a Koala enters your yard, put your dog inside your house or garage until the Koala has left.
- In addition to the danger of attack, Koalas are very easily stressed by dogs.
- Don't allow your dog to "play" with Koalas.
- Take your dog on regular walks so it doesn't get bored.
- If you must take your dog into the bush, use a leash. In most areas, it is illegal to allow a dog anywhere outside your yard unless it is on a leash, except in fenced dog parks.
- At night, lock up your dog. It is not enough to just keep it in your yard - Koalas can climb most fences or trees into yards.
- Notify your local council immediately about roaming dogs or about irresponsible dog ownership.



Renee Fallon

Outside of Sydney and found native wildlife in trouble?

Sydney Wildlife supports the collaborative initiative of IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) and NSW Wildlife Council in the release of a new Smartphone App that identifies the closest licensed wildlife rescue group to where your phone is situated. The App has a post code or town search facility and its Call Now facility will directly link you via your phone for quick help

for any sick, injured or orphaned wildlife. It also gives tips on how to initially deal with the animal until help is at hand.

The App, called **Wildlife Rescue** is downloadable from the Apple Store or the Android Market and also available for mobile devices from wildliferescue.ifaw.org

Why I love bats!



I joined Sydney Wildlife because of bats. As a child I'd been taken to an event run by the Kuring-Gai Bat Protection Society (KBCS) and I vividly remember how entranced I was by these animals that were at once so familiar and so weird. In those days no one knew about lyssavirus and I was even allowed to touch a microbat. It was miraculously small with a body like black velvet.

Afterwards I saw a fly-out of grey-headed flying foxes at the Gordon colony. Though I had seen and heard the odd flying fox in the garden before, nothing prepared me for the number that rose above the valley as the sun went down. It was like a scene from a David Attenborough documentary (already a childhood hero I have never outgrown). It amazed me that there was something so genuinely wild and unfamiliar so close to my corner of suburbia.

I thought it was an incredible privilege, and I still do. We live in a world that is increasingly tamed and controlled. Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote:

*"And all is seared with trade;
bleared, smeared with toil;*

*And wears man's smudge and
shares man's smell: the soil*

*Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being
shod."*

But in Sydney we still have a little, precious bit of wild. Of all animals I saw in my garden, bats never seemed familiar, tame or domestic. They weren't like possums or birds, or blue tongues that you might see around or even occasionally feed. I love those animals, and felt I could relate to them through my experience with pets. Bats were different.

When I became a scientist and a carer, I was even more entranced and intrigued by them. What it must be like (for microbats) to see using your ears- so that your perception



isn't continuous- you only "see" when you "ping"? Generally lifespan is related to size (small animals have short lives). Microbats only weigh a few grams- unimaginably small for a mammal- but they can live for 40 years. The physics of small animals is relentless- maintaining body heat for is incredibly challenging, especially with wings that can dissipate heat efficiently. But these animals do it, with all sorts of metabolic tricks like hibernation and torpor. Bats seem impossible, but one in 5 mammal species in the world, is a bat.

Watching them makes you realise that a colony of 20,000 intelligent individuals must have all sorts of social interactions and hierarchies. It's extraordinary that that bats brought up in a person's home can very quickly learn all of this.

Of course, not everyone loves bats. Like snakes, many people are afraid

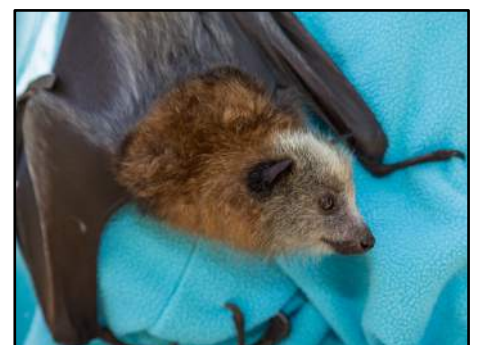
of them. While a very small number carry lyssavirus, the health risk is entirely preventable if unvaccinated people do not handle them. They aren't aggressive and are a joy to look after: smart, complicated and affectionate.

But the prejudice matters. There are only around 400,000 grey headed flying foxes in the world. They are listed as a "vulnerable" species are listed under the NSW Threatened Species Act 1995. The WWF estimates that heat stress events have killed 50,000 flying foxes in the last 15 years, probably more than 10% of the population of that species. In addition, large numbers of them are preventably killed each year in netting, they are often forcibly dispersed from their habitat and in some places shot.

What is more concerning about this, beyond the emotional level, is that flying foxes are ecologically very significant. They are the main pollinator of the eucalyptus forests, and the only long distance pollinator. As forest becomes increasingly fragmented by urbanisation, bats help ensure its genetic diversity. Without bats, the forest ecology of eastern Australia has an uncertain future.

Caring for bats isn't for everyone. But everyone can help them, by using safe netting, calling in bat rescue, and perhaps most importantly, by talking to people, and helping other people learn to love them, too.

Maryanne Large



Oh, what a feeling!

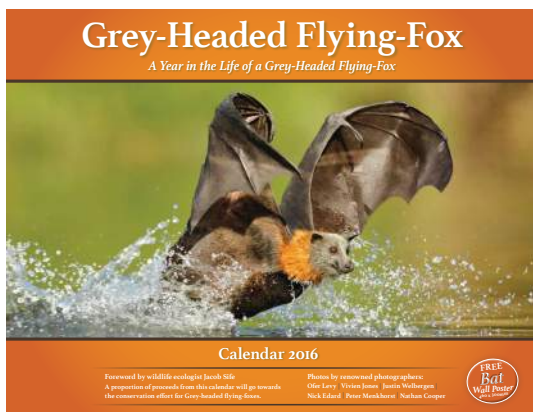
I dartoed this girl at Sussex for Wildlife Rescue South Coast WRSC. Gavin, a WSCR carer, took her straight to Howard Ralph's surgery at Braidwood where she was operated on at about 9 pm. Surgery went well with all bits pushed, stitched back in place. I have heard about but never witnessed a "prolapsed pouch" before yesterday. Although it occurs, I believe it is rare. Gavin took her back to where she was dartoed and after a few minutes she started eating grass. 2 joeys were with her and it is assumed they are her offspring. They had not noticed mum was missing. Howard discovered she had a bub in her pouch about the size of a jelly bean. So mum and the kids are safely back together. In dealing with adult roos the outcome is not always as happy as this one.

Neville Plumb



2016 Calendars

This year we have two calendars for sale with a percentage of proceeds go to Sydney Wildlife.



Flying Fox Calendar

\$13.20

This gorgeous calendar takes you through a year in the journey of the Grey-Headed Flying-Fox. The photography is absolutely stunning with each photo capturing the essence of these beautiful creatures. Each calendar is A4 with a drilled hole for hanging, and included is a FREE Bat wall poster. If you love bats or your friends do, this is the ideal Christmas present.



* not shown to scale



Penguin Calendar Pack

\$19.99

The Little Penguin is the smallest of the 17 species of Penguins. And as Sydney Wildlife members, we are very lucky to have a few colonies close by. This calendar is full of beautiful photos of these cheeky Penguins. It's A5, drilled for hanging, comes with a badge and drawstring pouch that can be worn as a backpack. A great present for a young wildlife warrior.

Each Branch has a Calendar Captain, so in the first instance contact your branch Captain to get supplies.

North West: Chris Thompson Inner West/Eastern Suburbs: Volunteer needed.

Northern Districts: Robyn Ball Northern Beaches: Pam Ross. South West: Debborah Kerr

Dobby's Story



It was New Year's Eve and I received a call about a young possum who needed rescuing at Bowen Mountain. Off I went to have a look. When I got there, I was shown a little bundle wrapped up in a blanket who had fallen out of the chimney, a very young Brushtail Possum. He weighed only 100 grams, was naked with large floppy ears and reminded me of Dobby the elf from the Harry Potter series, so we named him "Dobby". Although, I have raised a few young possums before, I had never raised one so young. So after a few words of advice from some more experienced carers, and lots of help along the way from some very supportive members, Dobby became my constant companion, coming to work (and anywhere else that I needed to go) so that I could feed him when required.

I am a science teacher, and although Dobby spent most of his time under my desk, he soon became of interest in the staff room and I had an endless supply of suitable foliage and native

flowers from staff and students alike. It was a great educational experience for both the staff and the students.

Dobby was initially a very reluctant feeder and it was very frustrating trying to get him to drink his formula. I was convinced many times that he would not survive, but again with further advice and support, we kept going and Dobby slowly put on weight. Eventually, it all paid off and Dobby was large enough to need a buddy. "Blossum" arrived and after a settling in period, they became inseparable. Dobby and Blossum were moved into a possum box in a



large outdoor aviary and began the process of becoming "wild" and eating more native food so that they would survive out in the bush. Once the time came, Dobby and Blossum were released at a friend's place which backs onto bushland

and a creek. We placed their possum box in a tree at the back of the property and some food was put out for them each night, gradually reducing this over a period of time. Dobby has now moved out of his possum box and is living in tree hollow nearby, he is now totally independent...a very successful release.

Jenelle Gavin



Know your Board

Chair and ND representative	Maryanne Large
Secretary	Helen Pearce
Treasurer	Dianne Jenner
Statistics/Office Co-ordination	Jeffrey Lynne
Media, Marketing & Fundraising	Robyn Ball
Inner West Representative	Bill Haskin
Northern Beaches Representative	Sian Waythe
North West Representative	Chris Thompson
South West Representative	Debborah Kerr

Hoo is calling?



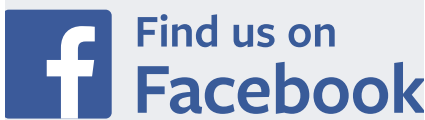
Ever looked at your mobile, not recognised the number and didn't answer it? To find out that you missed out on a rescue?

Our phone system diverts outgoing calls to mobiles through 2 mobile numbers, helping to lower our phone bills.

Please enter these numbers into your mobile so you can recognise that the hotline is calling you for help.

The numbers are

0437 094 130
0438 194 137



Sydney Wildlife now has an official Facebook page. Called **Sydney Wildlife** (Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services), it's the page with our Kookaburra logo. Please like and share with your Facebook friends.



Photo by Kerry Ellis



Photo by Anne Cherry

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Toni Barnes - Cromer
Lauren Anderson - Guidlford
Jessica Witting - Lane Cove
Robin Buckley - Lavender Bay
Fiona Dunn - Richmond
Michelle Durkan - Glebe
Antonina Fieni - Georges Hall
Michela Fieni - Georges Hall
Bronwyn Gould - Paddington
Jess Grindrod - Lane Cove
Robin Grindrod - Lane Cove
Shyloe Hopper - Blacktown

Lloyd Jenkins - Panania
Shirley Kirkwood - Cremorne Point
Rebecca Morovich - Annagrove
Luke Nettheim - Dee Why
Kathryn O'Connor - Leumeah
Natasha O'Connor - Leumeah
Patrick Park - Rydalmere
Amy Rossetto - Penrith
Robert Seychell - Castle Hill
Christopher Smith - Cromer
Alexandra Sylvester - Turrumurra
Wilhelmina van Riel - Dundas Valley



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