



CONTACT US

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Melissa	0407030457
Ray	0428156297
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REGISTER HEADS

Bat Register

Dee	3206 8165
	0419105436

Macropod Registers

Anita	0428710684
Melissa	0407030457

Possum & Bird Registers

Linda	0419696310
Beverley	0428156297

Other Fauna/Reptile Registers

Linda	0419696310
Beverley	0428156297

Workplace Health & Safety

Vicki	0421347709
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RSPCA Wildlife Hospital

3426 9910

AUSTRALIA ZOO

Wildlife Emergency

1300 369652

Appointments

5436 2097

BIRO 0432507705

Seabirds 0404118301

Reptile Rescue

1300 878903



Presidents Report – March 2025

Hi everyone,

Boy am I over this rain, and I am sure so are the animals! Hopefully now the lorries with LPS will start to slow down, plus all the animals coming into care as well and maybe we will have time to clean our aviaries as well.

We had a good workshop with Martin - I always love looking at all of the birds Martin brings along. Bev also has another workshop on the 27 of April. If you haven't completed your quota of workshops, please ensure that you think about attending this one.

There has also been a bit of an update on the data base for those animals with unknown locations. Read the next column to keep up to date.

Easter is all most here. The Committee wishes everyone has a safe and happy Easter. Buy Easter Bilby's rather than rabbits!

Yours in caring
Linda D'Arcy.

RAFFLE DONATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ONARR would like to take this opportunity to thank: Verve Photography, Hoselink, Coles, Woolworths The EKKA people, and the members who were able to donate to our raffle – now we just need to sell the tickets.....!! All tickets have now been mailed out...you should have yours...

DATABASE – update your records now!

The new database is running beautifully, and it is time to add your records from this quarter or update your records from the last quarter. I do mine on a weekly basis.

We have made a bit of a change to the database (when I say 'we' I mean the talented Nicole did it and I just supervised...)...there is a new button in regard to the location of the rescue.

If you have absolutely no idea where the animal came from click 'no' and move on to the next question. If you know the location of the rescue, then click 'Yes' and the map will appear, and you fill in the address. If the animal came from RSPCA and they say 'no address' or 'unknown', you still need to click 'Yes' and put in that it came from the RSPCA, Wacol.

Upcoming Workshops

April 27th

Mammals with Martin
At Beverley's Place
May – date to be confirmed – Bat workshop.

We are what we protect – this is what defines us.

Species and numbers registered for the last quarter.

Possums

Brushtail Possums
11

Ringtail Possums
24

Mountain Brushtail Possums

Sugar Gliders
2

Squirrel Gliders

Feathertail Gliders

Other Fauna

Northern Brown Bandicoot

2
Long Nosed Bandicoots

Field Mouse
1

Birds

175	Rainbow Lorikeets
15	Scaley Breasted Lori
1	Quail
7	Noisy Miners
3	Australian Magpies
1	Ibis
10	Bush stone curlew
19	Wood ducks
1	Little Corella
5	Kookaburras
10	Crested pigeon
6	Torresian Crow
1	Masked Lapwings
14	Pacific black duck
8	Tawny Frogmouth
2	Currawongs
2	Galah
4	Sacred King Fishers
6	Magpie-larks
8	Figbirds
1	Moorhen
2	Little Friarbirds
3	Bronze Wing Pigeon
1	Buff banded rail
6	Double bar Finches
1	Purple Swampen
1	Fruit Dove
1	Koel
1	Black faced Cuckoo shrike
1	Brush Turkey
5	Pheasant Coucals
3	Channel Bill Cuckoos
1	Wood swallow
1	Willy Wagtail

Macropods

Eastern Grey kangaroos

Red necked wallabies

Swamp Wallaby

Reptiles

Flying-foxes

1 Long-Eared Gould's microbat

Did you know...our new database shows that so far this financial year our members have taken in 1106 animals. Well done, you!

Pheasant Coucals have large personalities – they will beg for food, but when they do not want any more, they will drop their heads to the side as if bowing. Excellent hunters, love crickets.



Rainbow Lorikeets are again rising in numbers. LPS is the main culprit for them coming into care. If you have an empty aviary, consider taking in 12/15 birds. Usually need around 3 weeks to recover.

Macropods coming into winter – Melissa Arkell

The cooler months are coming. For Macropods that graze on the roadsides, the shorter daylight hours will put grazing times closer to peak traffic times. Please stop and check pouches when it is safe for you to do so. Many carers carry spray paint to mark a dead animal to show other carers that the animal has been checked. You may like to add some paint to your kit too.

Some interesting facts about the Red Necked Wallaby, one of our more common rescues.

- Gestation period about 30 days (Merchant & Calaby 1981)
- Pouch life about 280 days (Merchant & Calaby 1981)
- Pouch life varies depending upon (Stuart-Dick & Higginbottom 1989):
 - o Sex of offspring
 - o Season of permanent emergence
 - o Age of the mother
 - o Mother's previous reproductive history
- Young continue to be suckled until 12-17 months (Merchant & Calaby 1981) (Renfree et al 2011)
 - o More than placental mammals, marsupials' undeveloped young depend on mother's milk for a very long lactation period
 - o Throughout lactation, the composition and amount of milk produced is synchronized with joey's development
 - o Milk of a Red Necked wallaby has been discovered to contain powerful anti microbial properties, more effective even than penicillin (Williams 2007)

They sure are a long-term commitment. Although also very rewarding. I have included a picture of my boy Nicko. He

came into care from the RSPCA at around 400gms. His mum was hit by a car, his jaw was cracked in the accident and there was a small piece of skin out of his ear along with a lot of bruising and abrasions. His first few days were a little tough managing his pain medication and trying to find a teat that was soft enough for him to use.

After the first week, he was one of the easiest babies I have had. Fed easily from his bottle and gained weight well. We had a small case of candida diagnosed by a faecal sample at Australia Zoo and cleared with Nilstat.

Nicko was released from my enclosure around 2 years ago. He still hangs around my property with his wild friends and comes up to the fence near the enclosure to say hi sometimes.



Sofia - Black flying fox recovery from FFPS – Marion Wall

The rescue call came in on 23rd December 2024, with the exact location and images of a BFF in trouble in Sylvan Street in Toowong.

Finding this sub adult hanging low to the ground was sad to see. She appeared bright and kept a watchful eye on me as I wrapped her up. With no obvious injuries we set off to the RSPCA for a vet check.

Newly named Sofia after the city I had just visited in Bulgaria she was returned to me a couple of days later with Grade 1 Flying Fox Paralysis Syndrome. (See chart below) You could see she had had eye gel, and her membrane was very dry and she was not wrapping. I decided to put her in the bat-max with the other 3 babies to give her some company.

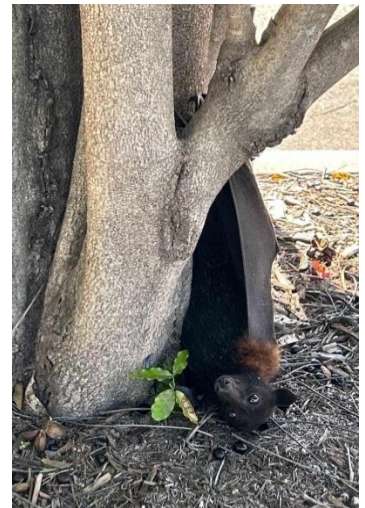


Table 1: Clinical signs: severity matrix

Stage	Impaired mobility	Impaired swallowing ¹	Impaired blinking	Impaired respiration	Other
Stage 1	Mild generalised weakness. Cannot fly but can climb.	Able to swallow. May have uncoordinated tongue movement	Weepy eyes	Normal respiratory rate and effort.	Dehydration ²
Stage 2	Moderate generalised weakness. May use thumbs to support hanging. Unable to hold wings against body.	Impaired swallow reflex. Likely to have uncoordinated tongue movement, with tongue often protruding ³	Reduced ability to close eyelids, dry eyes, may have corneal ulcers forming ⁴ .	Some respiratory difficulty. May be open-mouth breathing, without teeth showing	Dehydration
Stage 3	Severe, generalised weakness. May be hanging or found on ground. Unable to hold wings against body. May be able to move legs.	Unable to swallow, no gag reflex. Uncoordinated tongue movement, with tongue protruding.	Unable to close eyelids. Sunken eyes, may have severe corneal ulcers.	Obvious, severe respiratory distress. Open mouth breathing, with gaping and teeth showing.	Severe dehydration. May have abrasions due to struggling on the ground.
Stage 4	Unable to move. May be hanging or found on ground. Unable to hold wings against body. Unable to regrip.	Unable to swallow, no gag reflex. Uncoordinated tongue movement, with tongue protruding. May have clear, bubbly nasal discharge.	Unable to close eyelids. Sunken eyes, may have severe corneal ulcers and corneal swelling	Ineffective breathing (shallow, abdominal) with high respiration rate.	Severe dehydration. In shock or starting to go into shock. Cyanotic (pale, blue-grey gums). May have secondary neurological signs such as seizures / shivering, anisocoria. May be in poor body condition ⁵ . May have abrasions due to struggling on the ground



As she needed rest, I transferred her to a separate cage to allow for the rehabilitation process - a quiet and a smaller space to stop her from moving too much.

She was a gentle little girl, just over 500gms, so I was able to syringe feed her smoothie with added calcium and an additional fruit bowl.



But within that week I could see she was getting depressed and needed to be back with the others. She would face in the direction of the sound coming from the small roost in nearby Kalinga Park and could also hear the baby boys in the bat-max nearby.

Within a few short hours of being reunited with the boys she was wrapping and cleaning herself.

It was nice to observe the interactions, she would move away and let the boys feed first. She would enjoy some hand fed mango and was delighted when the string of juicy green grapes were put out. 😊



But, I never saw her flapping or attempting to fly!

As the bat-max was too small so it was time to move her to a bigger aviary and get tested.



As Dee was taking all the crèche babies this year, it was the obvious call. After 7 weeks in my care they were all transferred to Dee.

This allowed Dee to observe her more in a group. She was a very secretive girl, hanging by herself in her favourite corner at first and then with her baby friends close by.

Sofia's weight is increasing and we are hoping that her strength will return to improve her flying ability.



Marion's FFPS bat Sofia is in the process of being released. She has reached her normal weight, is flying, eating, and mixing with the other bats. So nice to see her ready to go back to the wild. Thank you, Marion, for rescuing and rehabbing her to the point of her next step, flying and preparation for release.

Our orphans did well and are also on the way to being released. Thanks to all the carer's, you did an amazing job as usual.

Dee Smith

A Message from The Safety Officer – Vicki Harmsworth

Easter is just around the corner. A lot of people will be taking to the roads with caravans, boats, and campers. Many people will also be driving long distances over short periods of time to make the most of the extended break. The Easter holiday has traditionally been a period when sadly the combination of time restraints, long distances and tired drivers can have devastating results. Please be careful on the roads this Easter. Ensure you take breaks from driving, do not take unnecessary risks, share the road and the drive, and do not drive if you are planning on having a few drinks.

Road travel over the Easter period is not the only potentially hazardous thing.... so is chocolate. And the danger is not from overindulging in your favourite chocolate egg or Easter Bilby it is from our pets partaking in the Easter fare.

Chocolate is toxic to animals. Dogs, cats, birds, and some native wildlife. Do not be tempted by sad eyes, begging and curiosity to share even a small piece of chocolate with our pets and rescues. The result could be fatal. Chocolate contains caffeine and Theobromine. These are similar compounds. Theobromine is a naturally occurring stimulant found in the cacao bean and is one of the principal ingredients in chocolate. Theobromine is a heart stimulant and diuretic in humans. Caffeine is also naturally found in the cacao bean and like Theobromine is a stimulant. Caffeine increases the activity of the brain and nervous system.

Whilst chocolate is a common treat for many humans, it can be dangerous for animals, especially dogs. The digestive systems of dogs and cats cannot break down the compounds like humans can and it results in a build-up of the two compounds in the animal's digestive systems.

Symptoms from the consumption of chocolate in animals can appear within four to twelve hours depending on the amount and type of chocolate. Symptoms can include:

- Vomiting
- Gastric
- Increased heart rate
- Co-ordination loss
- Rapid breathing

And in more severe cases

- Seizures
- Kidney failure
- Death.



If you suspect a pet or animal has eaten chocolate it is vital to get professional veterinarian help immediately. If you want your furry friends to feel included in the Easter Bunny goodies there are products on the market that are safe for our pets. Some examples of carob-based treats are listed below.

- Baxter's Doggy Treats (Coles / Woolworths)
- Mut-tello Choc Biscuits by Pups Pantry
- Hooper Ruff Delicious Dog Carob Bar.

Happy Easter Everyone.

References

<https://www.greencrossvets.com.au/pet-library/articles-of-interest/what-to-do-if-your-pet-eats-chocolate/>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC1215566/>

<https://adf.org.au/drug-facts/caffeine/>

<https://www.hooperruff.com/collections/treats>

<https://www.pupsinthepantry.com.au/>

Creating a pen for multiple uses – Beverley Clarke

Several years ago I built a 'wallaby' pen, which the wallabies and I both enjoyed. The issue was, I didn't always have wallabies, so the pen wasn't always used, plus I worried about birds of prey when the wallabies were small. I had previously 'netted' my chicken pen, due having an issue with crows taking eggs and food and decided that I could do the same with the wally pen. Plan in place, I purchased some tent poles and some caps for the top of them, and a big roll of rope.



I set up the poles, attaching them to garden beds (the wallaby pen also doubled as my veg garden – here I have to admit that it worked better as a wallaby pen as I am no great gardener...) and I then netted the top of the pen.

Time moved on, as did wallabies, and the pen was sitting empty for months at a time, which made me think it was such a waste. I refurbished the netting with cat netting, adding extra tent poles for support, trimmed the apple tree, and put in perches in two of the corners and one connected to a tent pole.

I have a tarp over one corner for some shade/rain proofing, and I moved in the tawnies and the curlew chicks. This pen is great as bugs and moths can access it, encouraging the birds to forage and hunt.



In the corner under the tarp I have a bird bath which I put live food in for the tawnies to hunt. The idea of the bird bath is that the toads cannot access the food I put in it, but the birds can.

Saving the spotted tail quoll...Linda D'Arcy

The spotted tail quoll is the only quoll species to have a spotted tail.

It is the hardest of the quolls, the average male quoll weighs between 4_7kg double that of the western and eastern quoll and a lot more weight than the tiny northern quoll.

The spotted quoll is patchily dotted along the Qld coast from Atherton tablelands to the Daintree in the north and reigns of East Qld.

Unfortunately, the quoll is in great decline as they are dependent on forests with plenty of trees with mature old growth that has hollows, logs to hide in good canopy cover and a complex vegetation as we know due to land clearing, development, agriculture has reduced their habitats have contributed to a 50%to 90% decline in population.

Some solutions to help is to plant old growth forest trees, do not destroy old logs which have good hollows regenerate with native trees that over time hollow out and place nest boxes in trees such as eucalyptus a few ideas which may help with the plight of our quoll.

"Quoll Farm" screened on the ABC is an excellent source of further information

