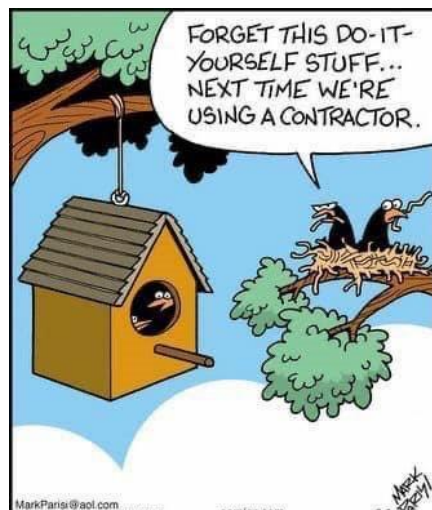




# O.N.A.R.R. Newsletter

WE ARE WHAT WE PROTECT: THIS IS WHAT DEFINES US.



January 20 cutoff date

## History sheets due

History sheets are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> January. Send them as soon as possible to Susan please.

Nil reports can be rung in by leaving a message on Susan's mobile. If you have not yet read the Power Point on Caring Records and History Sheets, please ask for a copy.

Please try hard not to be late with your sheet.

Dear Santa,

Before I explain, how much do you know already...?



## Presidents Report - December 2023

Well, everyone, it is that time of year again when tempers rise, lots of tension, and a big influx of animals coming in for care. As spring started, we had calls from Aust zoo, RSPCA, and local vets looking for homes for possums in particular - not enough carers at the time - a lot with malnutrition, way underweight. With the drought we were having, we have had birds as well as baby bats with the same again - not enough carers - hoping with this bit of rain things will improve.

I would like to thank our present committee, Vicki our workplace health and safety representative, Susan for all her hard work with the history sheets, Ray as our

Treasurer and Bev for all her relentless work with grants and running O.N.A.R.R.

We may not always be successful with our grant applications but we keep plugging away at them in hope of receiving funding for food and equipment for our members.

So a big Merry Christmas 🎄 to everybody and a happy and safe New 2024 year.

Please note that our previous License which you were sent just recently has now been surrendered to DES. You must apply for your new permit now as you will be unlicensed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2024...

Send in the Permit Endorsement Request, and you will receive a Permit Authorisation form which you must print, tick boxes, sign and either scan and email back or snail mail back - please do this very soon.....Happy New Year!!

Linda D'Arcy President

Management Committee			Possum Register		
Linda	President	0419 696310	Linda	(North)	0419 696310
John	Vice Pres.	0400 097960	Beverley	(Ipswich)	0428 156297
Melissa	Vice Pres.	0407 030457			
Ray	Treasurer	0428 156297	<u>Gliders</u>		
Beverley	Secretary	0428 156297	Beverley	(Ipswich)	0428 156297
Bat Register			Bird Register		
Dee		3206 8165	Linda	(North)	0419 696310
Dee - Mobile		0419 105436	Beverley	(Ipswich)	0428 156297
Macropod Register			Other Fauna and Reptiles		
Janine		0421 516444	Linda	(North)	0419 696310
Anita		0428 710684	Beverley	(Ipswich)	0428 156297
Membership enquiries					
Beverley	admin@onarr.org.au	0428 156297	BIRO (BIRDS)		0432 507 705
Workplace Health & Safety Officer			RSPCA Wildlife Hosp. 3426 9910		
Vicki		0421 347709	Seabird Rescue		0404 118 301
Australian Wildlife Hospital (Australia Zoo)					
Wildlife Emergency Hotline 1300 369 652(24 hrs.)    Appointments - Ph. 5436 2097					
<b>Reptile Rescue 1300 878903</b>					
Species and numbers for the last Quarter					
Possums	Birds	Flying Foxes	Reptiles	Other Fauna	Macropods
Brushtail possums 13	61 Rainbow Lorikeet 2 P.B. ducklings 11 Wood ducklings 17 Butcher Birds	1 Little Red 1 Sub adult Black female			6 Red necked wallabies
Ringtail possums 38	8 Scaley Br. Ioris 5 kookaburras 9 magpies	1 Adult Grey 1 Sub adult Black male			5 Eastern Grey kangaroos
Mountain Brushtail Possums 6	27 Noisy Miners 2 Corella 3 Galah 12 Tawny Frogmouths 3 Crested Pigeons	50 Pups - 27 Blacks and 23 Greys			1 Swamp Wallaby
Sugar gliders 3	31 Butcher Birds 2 Masked Lapwings 4 Blue faced HE 1 S/C Cockatoo				
Squirrel Gliders 7	1 Rose Robin 5 Mud Larks 1 Quail				
Feathertail gliders 1	2 Bronze wing pigeons 2 Kingfishers 1 Striated Pardalote 2 Little Corellas 6 Scaley breast. Lori. 1 Little Friar bird 1 Currawong 1 Fairy Wren 2 Crows 3 Rainbow bee eaters				

## HOPES OF LONG-TERM SURVIVAL OF RUFOUS BETTONG IN NSW AMID FERAL PREDATOR RISK

By Bindi Bryce Posted Thu 12 Oct 2023



They look like kangaroos and hop around just like them, but chances are you have probably never seen or heard of a rufous bettong. The rabbit-sized nocturnal marsupials are traditionally found in forests in Queensland and New South Wales. "Rufous bettongs are miniature kangaroos," Aussie Ark's executive

director Tim Faulkner said. "They're quick, they're nimble, they're agile."

The not-for-profit conservation group is breeding bettongs for its protected sanctuary at the Barrington Tops, near Newcastle, to help safeguard the southerly populations. Yesterday the group released a cohort of 20 that will start fending for themselves. "They've still got to compete with each other and find food and water and shelter and warmth, but there are no ferals," Mr Faulkner said. "It's a sanctuary, but life in the wild is not easy." Mr Faulkner said the little marsupials will have to survive alongside captive-bred Tasmanian "devils and quolls and have to be aware of aerial predators". "You just hope they're OK."

### **The future of bettongs in Australia**

Mr. Faulkner said populations of bettongs in southern areas like the Hunter Valley struggled to survive in the wild. "I saw one about a decade ago on the Gloucester side of the Barrington Tops," he said. "We could prospectively produce, let's say, 1,000 bettongs for release in an unfenced area. "The risk is that we're just going to make the foxes have full bellies." He said the bettongs' "vulnerable" listing in NSW should be re-evaluated. "In Queensland, they're doing better because ... the fox struggles up in the heat and the tropics." "I think the downward decline is pretty prominent and a vulnerable listing in NSW is probably not necessarily representative of the danger they're in." The not-for-profit group will continue to breed and release the species into the sanctuary every year, with the aim of reaching a capacity of 200 to 300 bettongs.





### O.N.A.R.R.'s 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.

ONARR members had a lovely day out at the Queen's Park Nature Reserve, followed by lunch at the Queen's Park Café. Vicki H.



made a delicious cake which we enjoyed very much, and Ray handed out the spare pieces to members of the public also having lunch at the café. This made for a good workshop, and a lovely social day out.

## What's the Diff? Tawny Frogmouths and Owls.....Beverley Clarke

Well, for a start, tawny frogmouths are NOT owls. Owls are birds of prey, that have forward facing eyes and they hunt with their feet.

Tawny frogmouths have fiery coloured eyes on the sides of their heads, and hunt with their wide frog-like beak. Tawnies will roost during the day, sitting on branches with similar colouring to their feathers, so that they can disguise themselves from annoying daytime birds and predators. Tawnies hunt like kookaburras, taking similar prey in a similar way. Females are often having a brown tinge to their feathers, and the males are usually larger birds. Tawnies make a very flimsy nest in the fork of a tree, which is often why we get the young ones into care. These birds also have a high mortality rate on the road at night. Having raised copious numbers of these birds, they are not bright. Tawny frogmouths have a very strong beak, which can cut your finger, just like a kookaburra beak, if it closes on you.

We have both Barn owls (Barn, Masked, Sooty, Grass and Lesser Sooty) and Hawk owls (Southern boobook, Oriental boobook, Barking Owl, Rufous owl, and the Powerful owl). Barn owls have a disc like face, heart shaped, while the Hawk owls have a face which is obviously hawk like. Most owls nest in tree hollows or rock hollows.

Owls have extremely sharp claws, with a smaller hooked beak. You don't want either of these to get a hold you...



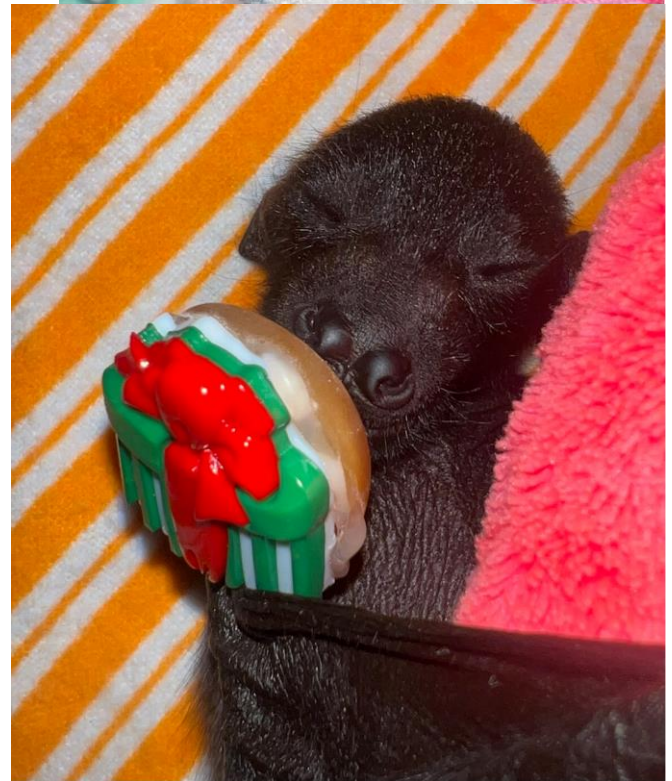
## The Bat Register - Dee Smith

A warm welcome to new bat carers Nicole, Marnie and Kim who do incredible work with The Rescue Collective. Also, a warm welcome to Kerry who is not new to bat caring and brings a wealth of experience.

Due to native food shortage this season our Bat Carers helped out by taking Flying-Fox pups that came from camps in trouble. These camps were in the Bunya Mountains and Hillview past Beaudesert. The pups were primarily our Vulnerable listed Greys. Kerry and Marnie are amazing with 18 bats between them. It's all about routine and I am impressed how they do it. Kim has been outstanding with rescues thank you. Nicole you have taken on more than you were going too but..hard not to say no sometimes.

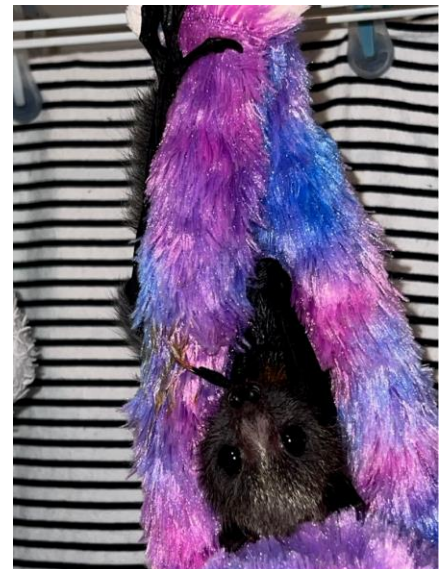
All of these little pups are getting the love and care they deserve in the lead up to their release. Very important for a well-adjusted bat.

With this



relentless heat we also have the worry of heat stress events with the camps. Very much hoping this doesn't happen. Pictured are some of Kerry's gorgeous pups.

Dee.





## Macropod Report - Anita Thompson

Lots of babies at my place, but not too much to report, so I thought I would report on my recent wildlife trip to Tasmania instead.



I wanted to do a wilderness experience with lots of wildlife. I found a lady (in the UK of all places) who organises wilderness trips of Tassie.

I told her what I wanted, and that my partner perhaps wasn't quite as much into

wildlife as me, gave her a budget and she came up with a 19-page itinerary for our 8 day trip. She organised the car, accommodation, most meals (as we were too remote for restaurants), wildlife tours and a route to take for our trip.

The highlights were:

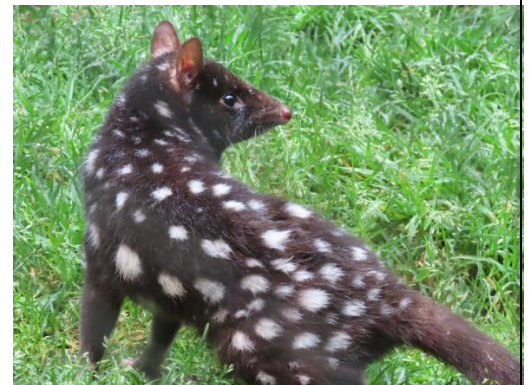
- A one-on-one tour of Bonorong wildlife sanctuary with a keeper for 3 hours. A real highlight and a lot of fun! This centre has currently the only wildlife hospital in Tassie.
- A whole day cruise of Maria Island in a private group of 20 people with a wildlife biologist



- 2 nights at a mountain cabin with our own devil feeding and platypus sightings
- 2 nights at cradle mountain (a MUST) with another devil tour and LOTS of wombats!

The photos say it all.... So I attached a LOT, but Beverley can include what she likes...It seems worth it to google wildlife tours and the place you want to go. There were a few contacts in Australia as well.... I just got along well with Susie from

Tasmanian Odyssey, so I went with her.







## Workplace Health and Safety- Vicki Harmsworth

As your Safety Officer I would like to extend my best wishes for the festive season and in to 2024 to all the carers, supporters, and friends of ONARR.

2023 has certainly flown by very quickly and summer is well and truly here with the arrival of some very hot days. I am sure we have all had our air conditioners and fans running overtime.

It is a timely reminder that the warmer weather presents us with extra challenges and practises to remain safe and continue to allow us to enjoy the activities of summer.

Here are a few things to keep in mind whilst out in the great outdoors. Whether that is foraging for our orphan natives, enjoying a day at the beach, a splash in the back yard pool or a trip up the mountain for some cooler air being sun smart, hydrated and knowledgeable of the weather will ensure everyone has a fun, enjoyable and safe time.

Remember to wear a hat, apply sunscreen, cover up and if possible, avoid being out in the direct sun during the hottest part of the day. Stay well hydrated by drinking lots of water. Whilst soft drinks, your favourite cold beer or energy drink provide fluids they do not hydrate like water. In fact, some drinks especially alcoholic ones can actually dehydrate you which is not what you want.

If you are in or on the water it is important to re-apply your sunscreen regularly and do not fall for the old trick of forgetting about the sun's heat when you are in the water relaxing and feeling cool. You might be cool but the sun is still hot and capable of giving you a good dose of sunburn.

Leave fresh cool water out for your local native animals and birds. A dish of cool water on the ground will be appreciated by lizards, skinks, insects etc as will regularly topped up bird baths be welcomed by our feathered friends. Do not forget our pets also will drink more when it is hot and always need a supply of fresh water. It is extra important if you are planning on being away for the day. Maybe leave out a couple of large bowls of water for your pets.

Check on the elderly especially on the extreme heat days. Elderly people are often vulnerable to dehydration and need a gentle reminder to keep up the fluids, use their air-conditioning or fans and keep out of the sun.

If we actively practise being sun smart and take the pre-cautions needed to avoid exposing ourselves to the full force of the sun, we can enjoy our outdoor activities safe in the knowledge we are doing the best we can to minimize our risk of severe sunburn, heat stroke and ultimately sun cancers.

Have a great break from the daily grind and see you all in 2024

Vicki Harmsworth – Safety Officer



## BEAK AND FEATHER DISEASE – Linda D’Arcy

PCD - psittacosis circoviral disease has been around for a few years, started in parrots and related species and is often fatal - some survive - and after a full moult hopefully cleared to some degree but still carry the disease.

The systems of balding, feather distortion and beak deformities, unfortunately beak and feather is now widespread even now found in black and whites. Usually, the parent bird carries the disease and passes it onto the young.

The virus kills feather and beak cells, symptoms of the acute B/F include diarrhoea and feather abnormalities with some birds eventually dying.

The distribution of the disease and the factors involved in the spread are not well understood.

The virus multiplies in the liver and can be transmitted orally or in faeces or feathers.

I had a lace neck dove which also had beak and feather 🦜 I took him to Australia zoo to confirm he had the disease.

## Circovirus in Parrots By Bird Specialist Dr Pat Macwhirter

Circovirus is generally not as severe in parrots as it is in cockatoos, but it may still be a debilitating and fatal disease. The beaks and claws of parrots are usually not affected but poor feathering may occur on any part of the body. The primary and secondary wing feathers may be stunted so that birds are unable to fly. These birds are called 'runners'. In budgerigars the condition has been called 'French Moulting'. The disease is widespread in wild Rainbow Lorikeet populations with affected juveniles presenting as 'runners'. Unlike with cockatoos, these young lorikeets may grow normal feathers on subsequent moults and can return to normal. However, they still continue to shed the virus and present a risk to other birds.

## Diagnosis

Cockatoos with advanced PBFD have characteristic beak and feather changes and diagnosis can be strongly suspected based on physical examination by an experienced avian veterinarian. Laboratory tests are, however, needed for confirmation. This is particularly so in early cases or with species other than cockatoos where diagnosis may not be straight forward. Typically, testing blood or feathers for the presence of circovirus genetic material using a PCR test as well as a test on the blood to check for antibodies to the virus will be advised.

## Treatment and prevention

There are no drugs that have been clinically proven to cure PBFD once a bird has begun to show obvious clinical signs. Some birds may be helped with drugs to improve the immune system; lifestyle changes; anti-viral drugs that have a partial effect against circovirus and other drugs to address any secondary infections. Self-cure sometimes occurs in lorikeets but is rare in other species once obvious clinical signs have appeared. Affected birds are known to continue to shed the virus, so can be infectious to other birds. Circovirus can last many months outside the bird and is resistant to many commonly used disinfectants.

## Why hasn't a vaccine been developed against PBFD?

This is a complicated story. A vaccine has been developed against PBFD but, like most vaccines, it is not effective if a bird has already been exposed to virus. This disease is widespread in Australia's wild bird populations and in pet shops so many birds have been exposed to the virus, most develop resistance to it but some harbor the virus for many months before they show obvious symptoms. The vaccine, while available experimentally, has not been released because it does not prevent the disease developing in these apparently normal but already exposed birds. If birds are vaccinated when they are already carrying the virus, then show disease after vaccination, complaints would be unavoidable. Research is continuing.

*My Mission is to save lives. My dream is that one day I won't have to...*





Photos courtesy of Ruth and John Williams

He was having a look in the box but when we came back half an hour later, he had reversed out. This fellow has a few small bumps and one bigger lump. I am thinking the bigger lump was not from this box because of where the lump is.

