



CONTACT US

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Melissa	0407030457
Ray	0428156297
Beverly	0428156297

REGISTER HEADS

Bat Register

Dee	3206 8165 0419105436
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Macropod Registers

Anita	0428710684
Janine	0421516444

Possum & Bird Registers

Linda	0419696310
Beverly	0428156297

Other Fauna/Reptile Registers

Linda	0419696310
Beverly	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



How to tell the difference between a wood duckling and a pacific black duckling - the wood ducklings are related to the goose family and pacific blacks are ducks. If you look at the beak of the wood duck you will notice that it has a higher ridge from the nose just like a goose where the bill of the PB is flatter like a duck.

Presidents Report – March 2024

Hi everyone.

Well, the animals have come in thick and fast - especially the lorikeets which have been coming in with LPS - lorikeet paralysis syndrome. RSPCA have had thousands coming in which are literally falling out of the sky. No one is exactly sure what is causing the syndrome, but from January a few of our carers have taken on a lot of the lorries - sometimes 20 at a time and most of them have been released.

We have had a few workshops already so if you are not up to speed with your workshops there are a few more coming up.

Now autumn is here hopefully we will have time to clean our cages and aviaries - it is tedious job, but we all have to do it. If you have had high quantities of birds or animals, make sure you replace flooring and branches for cleanliness.

It will be nice when things start to cool down a bit .

The Australian Wood Duck is Australia's most common duck. They prefer to dabble along the waters edge to find food and will forage for water plants and insects. When nesting, they avoid the water altogether. A favourite food of the wood duck is the clover plant. Wood ducks lay their eggs in trees, in a hollow or possum box if they are able to get into it. The ducklings have been known to jump around 30 feet down to the ground when they hatch.

Wood ducks can swim but prefer to spend their time on the land. Wood ducks form life-long bonds, and both parents help to take care of the ducklings once they are hatched.

The wood duck is also called a maned duck or maned goose.

Upcoming Workshops

Next workshop will be held at Linda's place at Shorncliffe.

This is a mammal and other fauna workshop, run by Martin from Geckoes.

Date: 28th April 2024

Time: 10 – 12 pm

Cost: \$30 per person

There will be a Flying-fox workshop in May – details yet to be confirmed...



Sacred Kingfisher chicks

Species and numbers registered for the last quarter.

Possums

Brushtail Possums
8

Ringtail Possums
4

Mountain Brushtail
Possums
4

Sugar Gliders
1

Squirrell Gliders
1

Feathertail Gliders
2

Other Fauna

Northern Brown
Bandicoot 1
Long Nosed
Bandicoots 4

Birds

145 Rainbow Lorikeets
7 Scaley Breasted L.
2 Crows
4 Figbirds
5 Masked Lapwings
8 Noisy Miners
1 Grebe
2 Apostle birds
4 Magpies
4 Ibis
1 Quail
1 Tawny Frogmouth
1 Bush stone curlew
2 Rose crowned FD.
2 Willy Wagtails
15 Sacred Kingfishers
18 Wood ducklings
1 Wood duck
1 Double barred
finch
17 Magpie larks
1 Pale headed
Rosella
1 Swamp Hen
2 Turtle doves
3 Kookaburras
9 Crested pigeons
1 Magpie gosling
2 Pheasant Coucals
4 Little Corellas
2 Fairy Martins
1 King parrot
16 Pacific black
ducklings

2 Butcher birds
4 Cuckoo shrikes

Macropods

Eastern Grey kangaroos 3
Red necked wallabies 1
Swamp Wallaby 1

Reptiles

Green Tree Frogs 2
Carpet
Python 2

Flying-foxes

4 Black Flying foxes

Tasmanian Wildlife Encounters Feb.2024

In February, we went down to Tasmania primarily for me to go kayaking with some friends in Port Davey, Southwest National Park. This is a remote and very beautiful part of Tasmania that few people get to visit. Access is only by boat or plane. We flew in on a small, chartered plane and spent the next eight days camping and kayaking the pristine waters. It is a very magical and special place. After that Brian and I spent a further 10 days enjoying the rest of Tasmania. Here are some of our animal encounters along the way.



One highlight must be meeting a wildlife carer in Bronte Park who looks after wombat joeys. She had 11 at the



time, all mothers killed on the roads in the area. In fact, the amount of roadkill that we saw on our trip was distressing. Her joeys were all around 6 to 7 months old, all still on milk – the usual brands – and very wriggly when they wanted feeding. They will be



in care for up to two years. By then they will be coming up to mating and start to become aggressive and bite. One lovely thing about Tasmania is that wombats are very easy to spot in the wild and we saw plenty in Cradle Mountain National Park as well as on Maria Island National Park along

with their famous cube shaped poo. The local wombat is the Common or Bare Nosed Wombat which prefers wetter forested areas. They also have thicker fur to cope with colder temperatures. Interestingly, the wombats on Maria Island have evolved to be active at any time during the day due to lack of predators. Something else shown clearly in the two photos is the lack of grass on Maria Island.



Eastern Tasmania is currently in the grip of a severe drought.

Our walks in Cradle Mountain National Park were beautiful as we were lucky enough to be there on cloud free sunny days – a bit of a rarity in that part of the world. Someone else taking advantage of the sunshine was an echidna. The Tasmanian short-beaked echidna is a subspecies of short-beaked echidna endemic to Tasmania.

A walk up to Hoggarth Falls in Strahan gave us an opportunity to watch a platypus swimming and diving at the base of the falls. In Tasmania, platypus are widely spread across the state and are common in the lakes of the Central Highlands as well as the rivers and streams of the south, south-west and north-west coasts. They also occur on King Island, the only Tasmanian offshore island known to have platypus.



Other encounters included

Padymelon, Bennetts Wallabies, Fairy Penguins but my stand-out was seeing an Eastern Quoll go past while I was eating dinner while camping. I jumped up to follow but he had gone, although I could peer down into the tunnels he had made in the undergrowth – obviously a favourite haunt. No photo op, but I saw plenty more at Devils@Cradle at Cradle Mountain. It is a lovely small conservation park dedicated to Tasmanian Devil,

and both Eastern and Spotted Quolls. Once common in Tasmania, the Eastern Quoll is either ginger-brown or black with white spots on the body but not the tail. Some have a white tuft on the end of their tails, which is what I spotted first. Eastern quolls once occurred on mainland Australia, with the last sighting occurring in the Sydney suburb of Vacluse in the early 1960s. They are now considered extinct on the mainland following the introduction of dingoes, foxes, and cats. They are smaller (and cuter) than the Spotted Quoll - more like a small cat.

By Susan Doel

ARC Companion Animal Rescue Donation – DOG AND CAT FOOD DONATIONS

We are so glad that we could help you with food and other goodies for your animals!

We hope that the money that you are saving by not having to purchase this food will enable you to spend money where you need it most; vet bills, infrastructure, rescue equipment etc

Now please take a minute to help us so that we can continue helping you and other rescuers in need. How do we provide you with free food and other supplies?

ARC obtains food donations from generous vendors and donors that we pass onto you at no cost.

To thank them for their donation, all we ask is that you post images of the donations you received with the relevant hashtags on Facebook or other social media.

This shows the organisations where their donations have been used - enabling us to get more support from them in the future. <https://arcsupport.org.au/whypoe/>

These are the hashtags to be included in your post:

- #PetbarnFoundation
- #RoyalCanin
- #ProudlyMars
- #HillsPetNutrition
- #Whimzeesau
- #blackhawkpetcare
- #ThankYouARC

ONARR, YOU AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT.

Being a wildlife carer, rescuer, or supporter is an important part of a greater community who dedicate their time and resources to ensure the unique wildlife we are privileged to share this world with continue to thrive and live in harmony with us humans. It is often a thankless, tiring job but to an animal you have just saved and helped it is the most important job in the world.

This important job also comes with responsibilities and requirements. Responsibilities for the animals in care, for reporting to government departments, to ensuring you follow the guidelines set out by various legislative bodies. Being a responsible member of ONARR also means you adhere to the policies and procedures prescribed by the guidelines and charter of the organisation. But the biggest responsibility you have as a member of ONARR in any capacity is the responsibility for yourself. Your own personal safety is paramount over any other aspect you may be presented with whilst conducting activities under the ONARR banner.

ONARR has a comprehensive Safety Management Document which clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of ONARR. Equally important, this document also communicates the responsibilities of individuals whilst you are an active member of the group in any role.

The principle idea behind this manual is to make sure members can continue with the important jobs of caring, rescuing and supporting ONARR etc in a safe, supported environment. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Whilst ONARR as an organisation greatly values the efforts members take to rescue, care, and support the group, at the end of the day the onus is firmly on the individual member to act in a safe and responsible manner. Your safety and well-being are your responsibility. ONARR does not in any way expect members to perform tasks that the individual does not feel safe about. Equally ONARR does not encourage members to conduct tasks that are simply dangerous. As a group of grown adults, we need to take the responsibility to ensure our actions are not going to put ourselves and others in danger.

ONARR has a responsibility to work very hard to operate the group within the law to keep our license. We run workshops, we ensure carers have the knowledge required to house native animals within the guidelines of legislation, we have a committee and registered heads as per requirements. We ensure our finances are transparent and audited yearly. In return ONARR expects members to be law abiding when involved in ONARR business. ONARR will not support members who break the law in any capacity whilst carrying out tasks pertaining to caring or animal rescue. This is paramount when it comes to trespassing.

It is important to note that safety does not only apply to activities we deem as physical like rescues, releases, caring and foraging. As a member of ONARR you are entitled to feel safe, respected, and valued within the group. As a member you are expected to show respect, tolerance, and value towards other members. This also included using social media to spread untrue and false information about an individual or organisation.

ONARR has a register for recording injuries. This sort of data collecting to useful to identify patterns in incidents and accidents and helps with preventative measures. If you do hurt yourself whilst engaged in an ONARR activity or identify a potential hazard you can obtain a copy of the form from myself or Beverley. Of course, filling in the form or reporting injuries is not compulsory.

In summary ONARR cares for its carers and supporters - after all caring is the core of our business. We do not want to see anyone hurt in any way and encourage everyone to slow down, think, plan, prepare and prevent. However, the buck stops with you! We are ALL responsible for our own safety and wellbeing.

Vicki Harmsworth WHS member 2024





Bin chickens!!

This shot of the ibis in the bins was taken at Pisces where I buy my mealworms. I am assuming there are left over bits of food and mealworms in these bins. Often when I go, there will be a wide variety of birds around these bins. White faced herons, swamp hens, ibis, ducks. Sometimes the smell is not pleasant, but once you go down the drive a little way, Pisces have a lovely waterway for the birds, a big pond with fountains. None of the birds are confined, they just choose to live there as the food is free!

Beverley

Toxoplasmosis by Linda D'Arcy

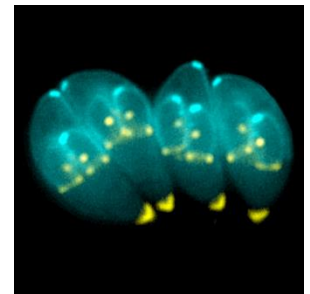
This is a disease that results from infection with the toxoplasmosis Gondi parasite.

Toxoplasmosis results from infection with a common parasite found in cat faeces and contaminated food. It can cause serious complications not only to animals as in our possums but also for pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems.

Most cats get toxoplasmosis by eating infected rodents, lizards and other small animals or anything contaminated with faeces from another cat that is shedding microscopic parasites in its faeces, after the cat has been infected it can shed the parasite for two weeks.

Those cats that are at risk are those that have outdoor access and they have the highest risk of contracting and spreading the parasite.

For indoor cats the most common source would be any raw meat - upon infection a cat can shed millions of locates via there faeces for several days. You can now understand why any bird or possum which is bitten by a cat needs veterinary attention as soon as possible.





Flying-Fox Paralysis Syndrome

Since December 2020 cases of Flying-Fox Paralysis Syndrome have been recorded in Northern NSW, SEQ and Townsville over the summer months. Black, Grey-Headed and Little Reds are all affected, and cases appear to be correlated to periods of heavy rain.

Clinical signs are: paralysis or paresis, protruding tongue, inability to swallow, inability to blink and respiratory distress. Toxic or metabolic cause is considered most likely.

I asked Tania Bishop who is in the Research group about the plant Durante or Sheena's gold as I remember Helen Luckhoff telling us bat carer's many years ago that this plant was toxic and poisonous to the bats.

Tania said that the Research group has gone over all kinds of plants found in the gut contents of affected bats found in areas that have been affected.

CSIRO even suggested a vine the group looked at that was in areas where they'd been affected but nothing specific has come up yet.

The latest theory is looking into fungi or a bacterium (mainly fungi) that may have grown in fruits after the really heavy rain events and following humidity and seeing if any of those could be toxic. Clinical signs were really similar at least in the lorikeets between Grafton NSW and Southeast Queensland, and the native and nonnative fruit species in both areas are quite different. Tania's summary is that the Research group knows so much more about what it is not! Her thoughts are that they will find it but the hard part will be that the driver is climate change!

On a happier note, our beautiful Grey and Black pups have graduated to juvenile status and ready for release. Just go away rain! **Well done** to all our Bat Carers.

We will be having a Flying-Fox rescue workshop in April or May, more information about it later.

Dee.

MACROPODS IN CARE – Melissa and Rhiannon Arkell

I have been wildlife caring for the best part of 15 years now and seem to learn something new with each animal that comes into my care. As most carers do, I started with brushtail possums, then started taking in ringtails, gliders, some birds, then moved more into what has become my absolute favourite animals to have in care, macropods.



“Lilo” – Still in care. Eastern Grey

As I know we all do, I spend so much time with my macros, day and night, taking them with me to work, getting up at all hours of the night, whatever is required by the animals I have in my care. When you spend this much time with an animal, the bond that you create with them is so much more than some milk every two hours. The bond is unique and special with each animal. You get to know their favourite bottle and teat, how they like being held when they are fed, and their little personal characteristics shine through. How could you not love that?! There is so much to love about macropod caring.

There is the flip side to this

though, macropods caring can be immensely hard at times. The survival rate of macropod joeys reaching maturity in the wild is around 30%. And this is for the babies that can actually stay with their mums where they should be.



“Nikko” – Released but visiting.
Red Necked Wallaby.

Caring for macropods, I have personally witnessed this statistic in all its heartbreaking glory. Unfortunately, the cold hard truth of being a macropod carer is that it can be heartbreaking as an eating well, toileting well, with absolutely no concerns whatsoever macropod, suddenly dying or dead.

There are a few things to keep in mind when being a macropod carer. The first of these is that these are wild



“Annie” – Lost due to coccidiosis at release. Eastern Grey Kangaroo.

animals, meaning they if they were to show any signs of

weakness in the wild, as harsh as it sounds, that would be a death sentence for them. So the fact that you don't pick up illness until its late stages is often times not because you were not looking, but rather that they were not showing you.

Next, hindsight is a beautiful thing. Each animal will teach you something new and I know that often I have thought to myself, if only I had have done that earlier, or I wish I knew that was going to happen. In reality, you do the absolute best that you can and you know how to at the time. You might learn

something that you wish you had have seen or done earlier after the fact but keep that in your mind for next time rather than beating yourself up about it.

Finally, you know your limits. Sometimes you need to look after yourself before taking on more. It is ok for you to give yourself a break so that you can give nothing but 100% to the animals that are in your care. Caring in general can take its toll on you from time to time due to the amount of heart and soul that we put into our animals, that when something upsetting happens, it is absolutely ok to give yourself a minute to collect your thoughts and look after yourself.

It is important to keep in mind that without wonderful and dedicated carers like you all, these animals simply would not have a chance at life. The fact that you are willing to pour time, expenses, and love into these animals in need is absolutely amazing and you should be proud of what you are doing and the chance at life you have provided for the animals in your care.



“Potter” – Released but visiting. Swamp wallaby.

Always remember there are always carers that have likely been through similar situations as you have, who are just a phone call or cup of coffee away if ever you need to talk something through, ask for advice, or even just want to chat about the animals that you are caring for.



Birds in care – By Beverley Clarke

We have had an enormous number of birds come into care over the last three months, 182 in total. This huge quantity of birds has been spread over only 9 carers. At one point, RSPCA was desperate for carers for the lorikeets that came in and we were fortunate that a couple of our people could step up and take them in, even though some had

no experience with birds. Hopefully, we are on the last leg of LPS, and we shall start to see a decrease in the number of lorikeets presenting with it.

The variety of birds has also been amazing (refer to the list on page 2). I have raised 15 sacred kingfishers – still have five in care, with one just arriving today. I hope to be able to do a big release in two weeks’ time – lorikeets, little corellas, galahs, sacred kingfishers, a peewee and an apostlebird should all be ready to go by then. I will then need to clean my aviaries in preparation for the spring influx. My aviaries will not be empty – there are still 2 pheasant coucals, 4 masked lapwings, 2 bandicoots and an echidna to look after, but it should be slowing down. One can only hope!