



## CONTACT US

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### REGISTER HEADS

#### Bat Register

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#### Macropod Registers

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 Melissa 0407030457

#### Possum & Bird Registers

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 Beverley 0428156297

#### Other Fauna/Reptile Registers

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 Beverley 0428156297

#### Workplace Health & Safety

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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



Three little rainbow bee-eaters came into care this year. Amazing little birds who would only feed on the wing, and therefore had to be fed every two hours by holding up mealworms or moths or insects so that they could swoop in and take them. Bee-eaters make their home in mud banks, and these three were 'dug' up when someone was making a dam.

## Presidents Report – June 2024

Hi everybody,

Hope you are all enjoying this lovely cold weather. Bev has been working hard at doing our membership and the licenses, so if you have not yet completed yours, please do so NOW!

We have had a couple of good workshops - Martin from Geckoes, and a really good Bat workshop at Christmas Creek.

Our last workshop for the year was a koala 🐨 workshop which Nichole Davies and Karin Machell held at Albany Creek. It was very informative - on koala rescue. The ladies showed us what they did by climbing up huge gum trees with climbing equipment, using long poles (a halo) a ground spotter plus an extra person to help with the koala 🐨. It can take up to 8-10 hours just to rescue one animal. That's dedication for you. To become a rescuer you have to attend training every month.

Do not forget the AGM coming up at the end of August.

Yours in caring

Linda D'Arcy

## Zoo experts hatch one of world's rarest birds to help save them from extinction

Conservationists have managed to hatch one of the rarest birds on the planet - bringing fresh hope the critically endangered species can be saved from extinction. The blue-eyed ground dove chick has become only the third of its kind to ever be raised in human care and only 15 individuals are believed to remain in the wild.



The species was considered lost until its rediscovery after 75 years in 2015 when ornithologist Rafael Bessa heard its unfamiliar call during fieldwork.

**Species and numbers registered for the last quarter.**

**Possums**

Brushtail Possums 10  
 Ringtail Possums 23  
 Mountain Brushtail Possums 1  
 Sugar Gliders  
 Squirrel Gliders 1  
 Feathertail Gliders

**Other Fauna**

Northern Brown Bandicoot 1  
 Long Nosed Bandicoots 2

**Birds**

124 Rainbow Lorikeets  
 3 Scaly Breasted L Figbirds  
 1 Noisy Miners  
 6 Apostle birds  
 1 Magpies  
 2 Ibis  
 5 Bush stone curlew  
 4 Wood ducklings  
 1 Double barred finch  
 1 Magpie larks  
 1 Pale headed Rosella  
 2 Kookaburras  
 3 Crested pigeons  
 1 Pheasant Coucals  
 1 Musk Lorikeet  
 1 Pacific black duckling  
 1 Bronzewing pigeon  
 1 Fantailed cuckoo  
 1 Drongo  
 1 Wood swallow  
 1 BF Cuckoo Shrike  
 1 Brush Turkey  
 1 Bl. Faced Honey Eater  
 1 Currawong  
 1 Galah  
 1 Little Lorikeet

**Macropods**

Eastern Grey kangaroos 2  
 Red necked wallabies 4  
 Swamp Wallaby

**Reptiles**

Cunningham skink 1

**Flying-foxes**

2 Black Flying foxes

**VALE – Shaun Jackman**

It is with deep regret that we give our condolences to Vicki Geraghty over the loss of Shaun. Vicki will be taking a break from wildlife caring, but we hope she will return to us in the future.

*Thanks, Janine!*

The Committee would like to thank Janine Grainger for being a Macropod Register Head for O.N.A.R.R. Janine is now taking a break from that position, and Melissa Arkell is stepping in. Welcome, Melissa!

# Making Bat Teats and Dummies – Kerrie Shipley

I have been caring for Flying Foxes for the past 9 years, slowly over the years I have built up my supplies and I am sure that like me, you all have a large supply of towels; pouches; wraps and cuddly toys and the like.

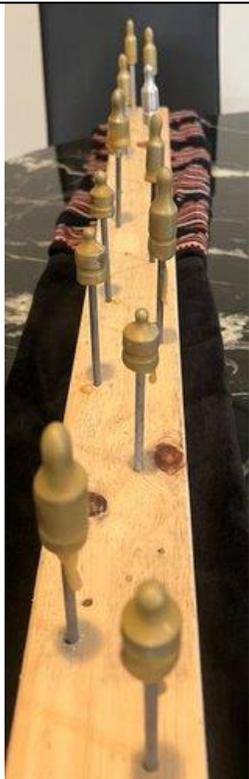
When I first started, I bought the teats and dummies required but my kids seemed to chew through so many in a season and other times somehow I seemed to lose some, mostly at the 2am feed and it was always that ONE favourite teat for that kid who refused any other teat but the favourite. Woe betides me if I lost that teat because we just weren't happy with any other teat no matter how hungry we were.

After about 4 Orphan seasons I could see I wasn't ever not going to have babies, I was hooked. Teats were becoming more expensive to buy each season so I decided to look into making my own....how hard could it be?

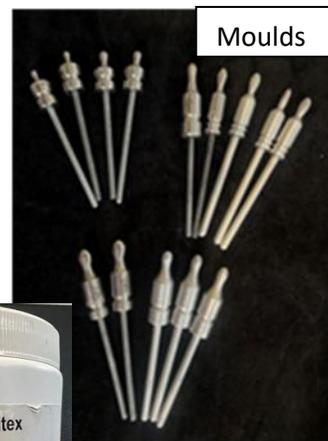
Finding someone who made the moulds was the first challenge, but someone down and yes he could definitely make some lovely stainless-steel \$25.00 per mould..... Back to the calculator, cost of moulds plus latex years/seasons I will be caring for babies? OK, so I ordered 4 Moulds 2 Small Moulds. I bought Brush Latex (just a small jar, 500ml) and it worked out that each teat was about 0.20 cents per teat not including the expense of the Moulds. This is in comparison to anywhere from \$2 -\$4 per teat to buy online.

It's fairly easy to make the teats and dummies, first though you need to find a piece of wood (mine is 90cm long x 7cm deep x 4cm high) to drill sized holes in so you can stand the dipped moulds in while they cure.

Dipped teats curing



Lay out some newspaper because if you are like me it will get drippy and messy. Set your moulds ready, some cloth to wipe up any accidental spills and your hands. Your jar of Latex (I use Barnes Brush Latex). Once I have everything ready I try to work quickly as the latex will start to cure as soon as it hits the air, that including what is in the jar. I try not to shake the jar up or stir too much when dipping as this incorporates air into the latex. Gently and slowly dip the mould into the latex and with a slow twisting motion lift the dipped mould out of the jar, keeping the mould as vertical as possible. When you dip the moulds check for any tiny bubbles on the dipped moulds. The bubble can be gently blown on to bust the bubble, unfound bubbles may become a hole in the teat which is not ideal especially on the first dip. I place each dipped mould in the pre-drilled holes in my piece of wood for curing, I leave overnight to cure and repeat the process, I usually do only 2 dippings per teat or dummy. However, if the latex is quite thin 3 dippings may be required. As the Latex is exposed to the air it will become thicker so less dippings are best. Once the latex is cured and there are the required dippings, the teats can be gently peeled off the mould and any latex which may have dripped past the mould while curing can be neatly trimmed with some sharp scissors. I repeat the process until I have a couple of jars full of different sized teats and dummies. I have recently purchased some dummy moulds and some extra teat moulds, so in total I have 14 moulds (of varying sizes and shapes), this makes for faster processing and less time for air to react to the latex. I recommend only buying 500ml or max 1 litre jar of latex, any larger and the latex will cure in the jar most likely before it can be used. A little hole will need to be pierced on each teat, with either a metal skewer, toothpick or hypodermic needle, checking the flow before feeding baby. I use a tiny amount of Tapioca Flour/Corn flour when storing the teats so they don't stick together. Long term storage can be either in the fridge or freezer.



eventually I tracked moulds for me at .....how many FF and 2 larger FF



# ARC – Animal Rescue Collective

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

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

You can use the photos taken at pickup (attached below) and / or photo of animals in your care with the donations.

That 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

#WellnessPetFood

#blackhawkpetcare

#ThankYouARC



If you don't have your own page - you can post to theirs at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/232035261068431>

Once food is collected from ARC, Ray and Bev need it to be collected from them at Barellan Point as soon as possible, preferably within two days, as it takes up a lot of room and their own dogs are very interested in it. If you want to receive some of this dog and cat food, please let Bev know so that you can be added to the list. We never know when the food will be available and are usually given a day or two's notice to collect. We cannot pick and choose on what we receive, so it is always potluck. This time around we got Smackos!!

## HISTORY SHEETS

Your last quarter for the year History Sheets are now due. Please get them to Susan as soon as possible, as Susan needs time to collate them all, and then produce her fantastic yearly report for the AGM. Please ensure you send them by the 20<sup>th</sup> July at the latest.

## RAINBOW LORIKEETS – Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome

By my calculation, O.N.A.R.R. carers have taken in 341 rainbow lorikeets over the past year. This has been a really tough year for our loris, with LPS being very prevalent in the community. Thank you all for doing what you could to support these beautiful birds. Once upon a time our biggest worry was having them come in as 'runners', but now it is the LPS bringing them in.

## Journey of the Numbat – Linda D’Arcy

One of the many unusual things about the numbat is that it comes out during the day - it is one of very few strictly diurnal (day active) native Australian mammal species. Most are either nocturnal or in a lifestyle described as crepuscular meaning they only come out in the dim light of dawn or dusk.

It is unusual to see these little Marsupials venture out in the open during daylight hours. That is because it's behaviour is closely tied to termites, which is their exclusive diet, when the day warms up the termites will move from underground through termite tunnels to the soil surface, that is when the numbats come out of their dens or sleeping dens to feed.

No other marsupial looks like or could be mistaken for a numbat with its long brushy tail, black and white stripes on the back near its tail, and red and grey fur, they use their stripes as a sort of camouflage.

Their main predators are cats, birds of prey, foxes, pythons, and dingoes.

Their range is from Western Aust, South Aust to parts of New South Wales. They are also here in Queensland, particularly in the southeast region and have been sighted around Ripley.

Since feral predators have been under control their numbers have increased.

The Numbat has a long, slender sticky tongue (approx. 10–11 cm long) that it uses to dip into narrow cavities in logs, leaf litter and in small holes in the ground to collect termites.

The Numbat also has a long pointed nose that is useful for getting into small holes in the ground and logs to search for termites.

Numbats sense the presence of termites via smell and possibly small vibrations in the ground. They dig small holes in the ground to uncover the passageways (called “galleries”) that the termites travel in when they go to and from the nest.



## Raising Bandicoots – Beverley Clarke

Bandicoots are delightful little creatures with big personalities. I raise my bandicoots on Wombaroo 0.7 Kangaroo milk, as the fat content is higher and they seem to thrive on it. The two varieties that we get into care are the Long Nosed Bandicoot and the Northern Brown Bandicoot. In my experience, the NB bandicoot is faster to reach maturity and a release size. It can be difficult to ascertain which variety you

have at first, but once they start to grow, there is a marked difference in the length of their noses. This photo shows Whiskas (he was nearly cat food) and Wenlock. Whiskas is the Long-Nosed Bandicoot on the left, and Wenlock is on the right and he is a Northern Brown. I find the Long-nosed bandicoots are paler in Colour with larger ears. Aviaries for raising Bandicoots must have a concrete base with mulch over the top to allow for digging and foraging. Do not raise bandicoots in an aviary with birds that go to the ground, as you will have bandicoots but no birds....they are meat eaters!



## FLYING-FOX NEWS – Dee Smith



Winter is the time our juvenile and older bats come into care due to food shortages and not coping with the cold. We have had a few in who were underweight and malnourished. One is on the road to recovery, but the other one unfortunately didn't make it. Sometimes backyard orange and Mandarin trees are foraged by the bats when their food source isn't available. These aren't ideal as citrus isn't normally their food. As usual it isn't recommended that fruit trees are covered in netting unless it is wildlife safe.

The bats also go for Cocos palm fruit in times of food shortage. When they are green they are poisonous and can get stuck in the throat or mouth. The bats can also get caught in the stringy parts of the fronds.

**Don't forget titre level checks, send these to Bev, and History sheets to Susan.**

I thought I would share with you photos of bat sculptures in the Day of the Dead theme. Our

bat carers in the group would have seen these. They are very cleverly done by an amazing bat carer in Kuranda as a fundraiser for fruit for all the bats in her care.

Day of the Dead is a holiday festival that pays respect to friends and family members who have died. It is widely observed in Mexico. Who has children/grandchildren and watched Coco with them? I love this movie.



SAFETY THOUGHT.....Vicki Harmsworth.

Being a wildlife carer, a vet nurse, or veterinarian can be a challenging job mentally. The impact of dealing with sick, orphaned, neglected, and abused animals along with the emotional aspect of supporting animal carers and pet owners through the loss of an animal can take an enormous toll on the mental health of these dedicated people.

Little community awareness is afforded to this issue. A quick Google Scholar search revealed that many studies and surveys have been conducted in more recent times in conjunction with the increased public awareness of the mental health and wellbeing challenges facing those in the caring industry. This included volunteers within the wildlife caring and rescue space.

Carers take their roles seriously and are very dedicated people. As any carer will tell you taking on a small, tiny, orphaned baby is no five-minute job. The caring becomes personal, all-consuming and it is the focus of the carer to raise this small creature to adulthood and give it the best chance of surviving in the real world.

But things go wrong no matter how much you care, nurture, seek help or try a new approach when things are going downhill. Sadly, some of our babies simply will not make it. And that is tough. It would be odd to not question what you did wrong, what could you have done better and why this happened. Often there are just no answers.

The Black Dog Institute has an extremely informative website. There is a page on their site called “Strategies for Long Term Health and Wellbeing” with a section dedicated to wildlife carers. There you will find useful information on coping strategies – under the banner “things you can do” and information on the Common Reactions to Wildlife Caring which helps carers understand and identify the emotional, moral, and physical reactions to their caring. This also helps carers to understand they are not alone in their feelings. I would encourage everyone to visit this web site, have a read and take on board the strategies suggested.

Dr Bruce Englefield from the University of Sydney has looked at the mental health of wildlife carers in his research. He has authored a paper titled “A review of roadkill rescue: Who cares for the mental, physical and financial welfare of Australian wildlife carers?” It makes for an interesting read.

As we continue to care for our charges, we will also continue to have some wins and losses. With this in mind I would encourage all ONARR carers to take the time to practise some self-care, allow yourself to be sad about the loss, comfort yourself by knowing you did the best you could do, accept the fact that you can’t save everything, and understand that for the time the animal was in your care it was well looked after, warm and safe. And ultimately whilst it is hard to lose an animal – that animal died with dignity and respect.

I cannot stress enough that if you are not traveling well and feeling down there are organisations out there who can help that are a phone call away with a person on the end of the line OR help at the click of your computer mouse.

- Beyond Blue [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)
- Lifeline [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au) PH 13 11 14
- Black Dog Institute [www.blackdoginstitute.org.au](http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au)
- R U Ok [www.ruokday.com](http://www.ruokday.com)



## KOALA RESCUE WORKSHOP

This workshop was run by Nicole Davies and Karin Machell, who are both very dedicated koala rescue people. They are on call 5 nights a week and can get called out multiple times in a night. The photo above shows you just how dedicated the ladies are – this is Nicole up a tree performing a rescue – once she convinces the koala to go down the tree it is up to Karin and the other rescuers to



capture the animal. They deal with animals with mucky eyes, car hits, dog attacks and dirty backsides, bringing them into care to be healed if possible, and euthanised if not. **Be aware of the koalas in your area.**



## BIRDS OF A FEATHER – Raising Bush Stone Curlews – Beverley Clarke



I find raising Bush Stone Curlews (Bush Thick Knees) very rewarding. *Expensive*, but rewarding!

They are long-legged birds, and like our ducklings and other ground hugging birds, are precocial feeders. And like our other ground hugging birds they need to be kept warm. This can at times be tricky, as the curlews grow quite fast, and can end up touching the heat source if you are using a heat lamp above their head. If you have more than one, and I recommend that you do, they will lie in a heap together under the heat.

Sometimes they will lie down on

their side, and they appear to be unwell, but it is just their way of getting comfortable. They are insect and meat eaters and will go through a kilo of mealworms within a two-week period = cost of around \$70 a kilo. They also eat lamb heart which has been minced, with calcium, probiotics and insectivore added. These guys feed at night but will often accept breakfast as well. When they are small they feed all day long, but as they become adults their feeding



habits change. At around 9 weeks they begin to spread their wings and have a go at flying, so it is necessary to have an aviary or pen large enough for them to do that. I prefer to let mine go at around 12 weeks of age, as by then they are seriously



wanting to fly and are more independent of you. They often pick up small stones which they swallow to grind food in their gizzard. They love to lie together in the morning sun,



and also like a bath in a large bowl they can sit in. My pen is 6 m x 6 m with a netting roof.