

O.N.A.R.R.



NEWSLETTER NO.88

MARCH 2026



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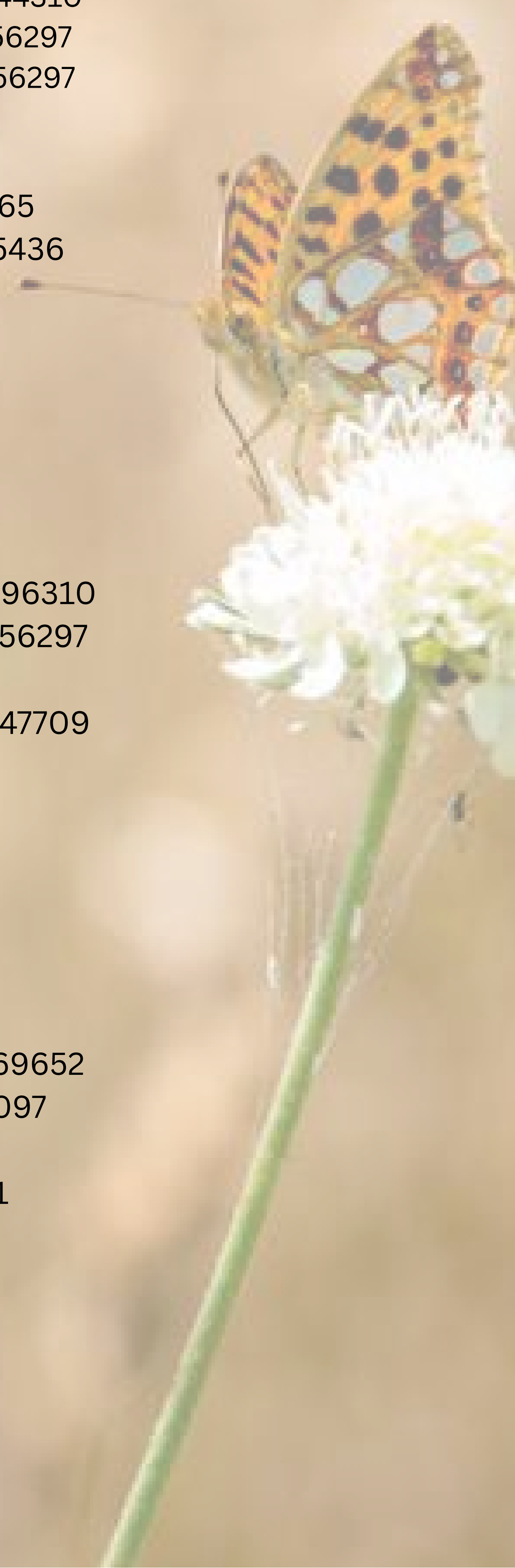
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News from the President - Lindy D'Arcy

Hi everyone,

I will certainly be looking forward to the cooler months, when the amount of animals start to slow down.

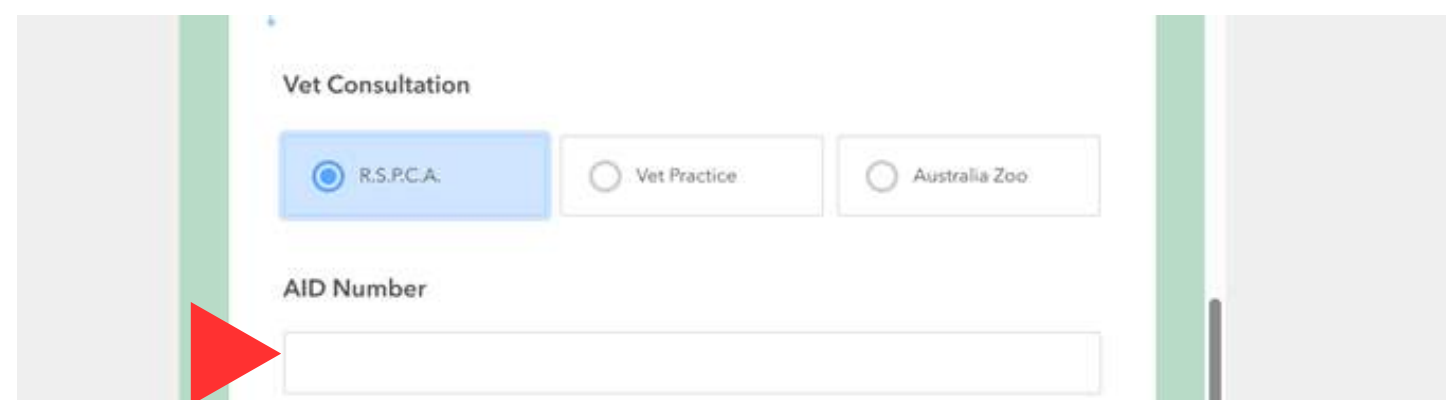
We have had a change to our Data base there is now a drop down box (see below ▶) to put in the AID number for every animal.

The RSPCA is focused on the survival rates of animals, both those that survive and those that do not, in order to assess whether to retain the animals for a longer duration prior to their arrival; however, they do not maintain records regarding the distribution of animals.

There are a few workshops coming up. The one at Lone Pine will be great for those who have not done any workshops as it will cover all species.

Hope you are all keeping well.

Yours in caring
Linda D'Arcy



Bronze Wing Pigeons

The common Bronze Wing Pigeon is a lovely animal to look after, they are a medium sized heavily built pigeon, they are a native of Australia, and there is also a brush Bronze wing pigeon which is quite a pretty bird.

I have raised a few of these birds from a tiny size. I crop feed them with Neo care until they start eating seed, they also eat peas, corn some small bits of apple and berries. The males a quite pretty bird iridescent plumage and reaches its peak during breeding season with vibrant maroon and purple, these Pigeons are fast flyers like the crested pigeons.

The females lay two white eggs in a nest between upright branches they also like to nest near water; the bronze wing can almost live in any habitat.



Common Bronze Wing (Male)



Brush Bronze Wing (Male)

I have a dusky moorhen chick in care, who likes to hide in a box. Unfortunately, with the rain we have had coming into the aviary, his box got a little wet... but he was still inside, sleeping, this morning when I discovered it, or rather, what was left of it.

Where I live, if you have something you no longer require, you put it out the front of your house, and usually someone who does want it will come along and take it away for you. At 7.30, Ray let me know the neighbour over the road had put stuff out, and one of the things he didn't want was a lovely piece of 10ml plywood. I snaffled it up and set to work.

By Beverley Clarke



Soggy home...



The new box in situ :)



Checking out the new accommodation!



Hiding... :)

Flying-Fox News by Dee Smith

Once again our Orphan Flying-fox season has come to an end.
Thank you to all our carers for their hard work and dedication in raising the orphans.

These orphaned pups were mostly Grey-Headed, with a few black pups as well. They came into care because of severe weather events, storms and hail.
After a few months of love and devotion from their human surrogate mums, the pups, now juveniles graduated to crèche.

Crèche is important for juveniles because it is where they can stretch their wings and fly while building up their muscles in preparation for release. It's also where they become independent and meet crèche parents - adult bats. When they are with the adults, the juveniles learn about territoriality and submission to the older bats. The first reaction is sometimes feared as the adults may smell and check them out. And of course they are bigger than the juveniles. Some may be cocky with the adults and these are rebuffed vocally.
When teaching flying-fox etiquette, the adults may chase the juveniles but they do not harm them, it's a way of pulling them in line.
The juveniles have made friends, and are at ease with adult bats. They have experienced rain, wind, heat, sun, an eclipse and a possible visit from a python.

They have done well and have graduated to the release site.

It was a privilege and pleasure for me to raise these beautiful Grey-Headed flying-fox pups who are a Threatened Species.

Pictured below are some of our juveniles in crèche and the release site.





Salt lick Blocks for bats sourced by Marion Wall

Bats use natural salt/mineral licks, especially fruit-eating (frugivorous) females, to supplement essential nutrients like sodium, calcium, and other minerals crucial during pregnancy and lactation for their nutrient-poor diets, often consuming mineral-rich clay or water from these sites. While common salt blocks (like for livestock) provide sodium, bats seek broader mineral sources, sometimes from natural soil or clay, to support overall health, detoxification, and proper bodily functions, with researchers observing higher visitation rates by reproductive females at these natural spots.

Why Bats Visit Mineral Licks

Nutrient Supplementation: Bats need minerals often lacking in their fruit or insect-based diets, especially females supporting pups.

Detoxification: Mineral licks might help buffer the effects of toxic plant compounds found in their food.

Reproductive Support: Pregnant and lactating females visit mineral licks significantly more often to get necessary minerals for milk production and pup development.

What They Seek

Sodium & Trace Minerals: Essential for cell function, nerve impulses, and hydration.

Clay & Soil: Bats consume mineral-rich clay or drink clay-saturated water from these lick sites.

How to Provide for Bats

Natural Licks: In tropical environments, bats use naturally occurring mineral-rich areas.

Captive Bats: For captive bats, providing a varied diet with some mineral supplements, or access to mineral sources, can be beneficial, but specific formulations should match their needs (e.g., some captive bats use salt lick blocks for general mineral intake).

In essence, bats use salt/mineral licks as vital nutrient sources, not just for salt, but for a broader mineral profile that supports their survival and reproduction, particularly in tropical ecosystems, according to research published in PLOS One.

The salt lick block as pictured below can be purchased for about \$15 from Greg Grant Saddlery.



Species and numbers registered for the last quarter

BIRDS:

Australian Grebe 1
Australian Magpies -
Black face Cuckoo Shrikes 2
Blue Faced Honey Eaters -
Brown Honey eaters -
Brush Turkey -
Bush Stone Curlews -
Butcher bird 5
Channel Bill Cuckoo 2
Crested Pigeon -
Currawong 1
Double Bar Finches 9
Dusky Moorhen 1
Fairy Martin 3
Fig bird 11
Friar Bird (Noisy) -
Galah -
Ibis 3
Koel 1
Kookaburras 3
Little Corella 1
Magpie larks 5
Masked Lapwing 3
Moorhens 2
Noisy Miners -
Pacific Black Ducks 19
Pale Headed Rosella 1
Pale Headed Rosella 3
Pheasant Coucal -
Purple Swamphen 1
Rainbow bee eaters 3
Rainbow Lorikeets 59
Rose crowned fruit dove 1
Sacred Kingfisher 4
Scaley Breasted Lorikeets 11
Silvereyes 3
Spangled Drongos -
Spectacled Monarch 1
Spotted Dove 1
Tawny Frogmouth 1
Teal Ducks -
Thrush -
Torresian Crow 5
Tree Martins -
Welcome Swallow 9
Willy Wagtail 1
Wood Ducks 21

MACROPODS:

Eastern Grey Kangaroos -
Red-Necked Wallabies 3
Swamp Wallaby -
Red-Necked Pademelon -

MARSUPIALS:

Brushtail Possums 5
Ringtail Possums 38
Mountain Brushtail Possums -
Sugar Gliders 3
Squirrel Gliders 1
Feathertail Gliders 1
Northern Brown Bandicoot 2
Long Nosed Bandicoots 4
Dunnart 1
Antechinus 1
Bush rats 3

REPTILES:

AMPHIBIANS:

Green Tree Frog -

FLYING -FOXES:

Greys -
Blacks -

**** Numbers shown at time of publication**



Beverleys' experience with tiny birds

People often ask me what my favourite animals is to raise, and invariably I answer a wallaby, or whatever I currently have in care.

But the last few months I have been raising tiny birds, and I do mean tiny. I have raised small species before but never in such quantities.

I started with some welcome swallows, moved onto to fairy martins, back to welcome swallows before a bunch of tree martins. Then came the double barred finches, which I had never been successful in raising before. I had done some research prior to them arriving (not knowing they would arrive) purely because I wanted to know where I was going wrong...I even rang the Finch Society to ask for advice only to be told they had never done it successfully either...not a good start...

Then Randy sent me a video of a guy in Europe who raised one from hatching the egg...I was absolutely astounded at the amount of food he put down that tiny little hatchlings throat! However, it was obviously where I was going wrong – not putting enough food/liquid into them so they were dehydrating.

RSPCA rang and guess what they offered me? A 5 gram double barred finch. In for a penny, in for a pound, I said yes...I had no real idea on how much the guy overseas was feeding his, but I judged by the bulge in the crop and went with it. I fed my little guy nearly two mls of Neo-care before he was satisfied, and he thrived. Three weeks later, they rang again offered me 6 more finchlings, and now all seven have been released.

I also took on 3 silvereyes, and fairy wrens. One of the wrens was on medication, and did not pull through, but all the others have been released, along with several more fairy martins, two kingfishers and three rainbow bee-eaters.

When they are such a small species, they don't eat much, which is a good thing, but because they are such a small species and don't eat much, you are feeding them fairly constantly, like every two hours maximum, until they self-feed, so your life is not your own.

Once they move into a cage from a nest, things improve but you have to keep an eye out for escapees...they are buggers to catch when they get out in the house!

Then when they move into the aviary things become tricky again, as you have to open the door, get in, close the door, make sure none escaped and you haven't spilt or dropped the food whilst doing your contortionist act. You have make sure none are on the floor before stepping anywhere, still whilst trying to stop them from flying out of the aviary.

Having said that I recommend you try raising some tinies...they are really good fun.



Feeding idea from Auckland Zoo!

Looks like a roller painting tray with a small amount of water for the fish or other live food.



Window Bird Strike Article sourced by Randy Le-Bherz

Preventing Bird Strike: Bird vs. Window

As if life wasn't already hard enough for birds – food isn't always easy to come by, cuckoos come and expect you to raise their babies, other creatures are keen to eat you and then humans come along and build their houses right in your flight paths! What a literal pain in the neck!

Bird strike is a common occurrence throughout the world and of course, more prevalent where bird populations are high and windows are plentiful. In North America, windows claim an estimated 1 billion birds per year, largely due to high rise buildings that have been built in migratory pathways.

Bird strikes occur where windows reflect the sky and surrounding vegetation, and also where it is possible to see straight through to vegetation on the other side. Birds do not understand glass, plus they fly fast and are very fragile. This can only lead to unfortunate outcomes unless you can help them avoid a collision.

Assess the Risk

You may already be aware of problematic windows but if not, take a walk around your house, both inside and outside, and look at your windows (or other glass/reflective structures such as pool fences) with a bird's eye view in mind.

Assess the size of your windows and their reflective potential for both summer and winter months. Can you see straight through the house to the sky or vegetation on the other side? Consider likely flight paths and whether there are attractive items that will encourage birds to come near the house such as baths, feeders, fruiting trees or roosting sites.

Once you have determined which windows pose the greatest threat, you need to make your windows visible to birds. You do this by breaking up the reflection so birds can be more aware of the presence of the solid wall of glass. It may be necessary to use a combination of modifications. Here are a few suggestions.

Non-Permanent Solutions

Mark the glass. You can add your own marks to the inside or outside of your windows using various products and techniques.

The main rules to follow are:

- White gives the highest contrast and is therefore the easiest colour for birds to see.
- Apply marks across the entire surface of the window with the spaces between the marks too narrow for birds to fly through, i.e. 10cm gaps or less.
- Birds don't like to fly between vertical spaces narrower than their wingspan, for this reason, vertical lines are more effective than horizontal lines.

Here are a few DIY ideas:

1. Use an oil-based white paint pen that is designed to be used on glass (see your local art and craft store or Officeworks). Use a ruler to draw vertical lines 5-10cm apart. Oil based paint is long lasting and can be scraped off when necessary.
2. Apply stickers / decals or film directly to the windows (there are plenty of options available online). White automotive tape is a cheap, long-lasting option that can be scraped off when necessary.
3. Regularly add your own patterns with yellow highlighter pen, or paint the entire pane with tempura paint or whitewash (a good solution for garages or sheds that don't really need windows for views). These will need to be reapplied as they will fade and may wash off with rain.

Semi-permanent Fixtures

4. Create a curtain of dangling things such as ropes, wind chimes, CDs or hanging baskets. Soft materials such as rope or cord can be hung at 10cm intervals and attached to the top edge of the window frame to dangle immediately in front of the glass. Hard objects should be hung away from windows to prevent them from tapping on the glass when it is windy.

Window Bird Strike continued...

Permanent Fixtures

Awnings, shutters, shade sails, external blinds, mosquito mesh against the glass or taut, fine mesh netting at least 10cm away from the window that birds can bounce off without harm.

Replace regular glass with decorative glass with permanent patterns etched, sandblasted or fused onto the glass. Windows broken into smaller panels such as French-windows or leadlight windows also offer a safer solution.

If you are building a new home, consider reducing the amount of glass used in the house and avoid unnecessary use of glass for things like pool fences or balconies. Also avoid horizontal cables on fences and balustrades, vertical cables are the safer option.

Consider angling windows downward by 20 degrees to prevent reflection from occurring at all.

Inside Tips

Prevent visual pathways. In areas of your house where you can see straight through multiple windows to the sky and/or greenery on the other side, create some sort of barrier between. Close internal doors or use curtains or blinds and be conscious of keeping some of them closed or partially closed on at least one side of your house during the day.

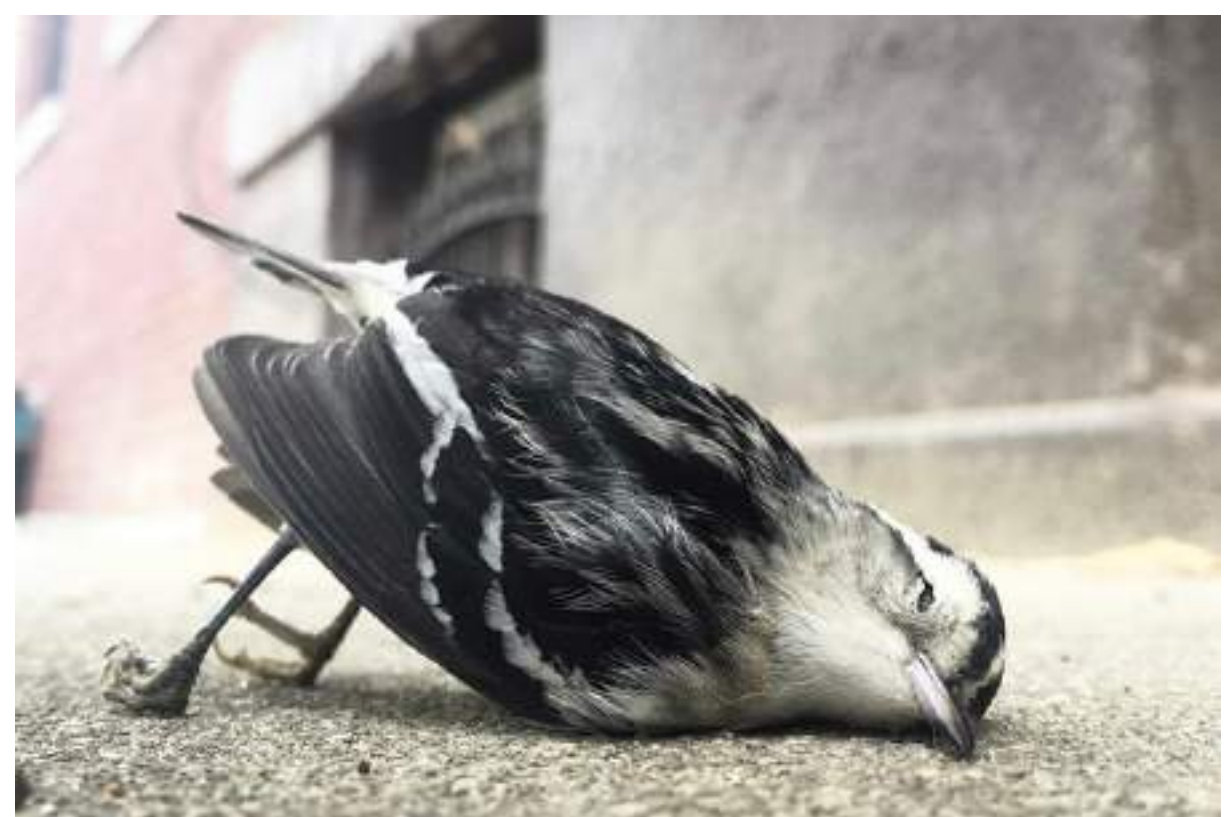
Prevent night-time collisions. Turn lights off at night when you're not using them or close the blinds or curtains, as some nocturnal birds can get confused by or attracted to the light.

How to Assist an Injured Bird

- Gently examine the bird. If there are obvious injuries such as a broken wing, unusual movement, discharge from beak or eyes – immediately take it to your local vet or call us (Phone number on page 2 of newsletter).
- If the bird looks physically intact, see if it is able to perch on a branch, and watch it to see if it recovers enough to fly away. If it is too dazed or has been knocked unconscious, carefully place it in a well-ventilated box with a lid and place it in a warm quiet place that is safe from pets or other predators.
- Check on it regularly but don't touch it or try to feed it.
- If the bird seems to recover, take the box back outside near where you found the bird and open the box, hopefully it will fly away. If not, continue to try every 30 minutes. If after a couple of hours the bird has not recovered, seek vet/carers assistance.

Article by Sue Nolan

Land for Wildlife Officer - Brisbane City Council



How to make a possum Drey

In the wild ringtail possums create a dome shaped nest. To create an artificial drey it should be strong, waterproof and resemble as closely as possible to that of a natural drey.

To create your own you will need:

- 2x Steel Wire Hanging Baskets with Coconut Fibre inserts.
- Wire Cutter
- Stanley Knife/Scissors
- Metal Wire or cable ties
- Recycled plastic, shade cloth or some paper bark - for added protection from the weather



INSTRUCTIONS

- Use a Wire Cutter to remove the central segment of wire on either side of the upper half of the basket, thereby creating an entry and exit point.
- Position the coconut fibre within the upper basket, ensuring it is evenly distributed around the entire basket.
- Employ a Stanley Knife or Scissors to cut a square opening at the entry point.
- For the exit point, execute a single cut in the coconut fibre using Scissors or a Stanley Knife. This will provide the possums with an escape route in the event of a predator attack.
- Create several additional holes around the top of the Drey to secure the Coconut Fibre to the steel wire using cable ties, ensuring it remains stable and does not collapse.
- Connect the Top and Bottom baskets together. Ensure that the Coconut Fibre on top is folded over the upper edge of the bottom basket; this will allow rainwater to flow over the top of the basket instead of entering the bottom basket.
- Use cable ties or wire to secure the two wire baskets together.
- You may then reattach the hanging wire and search for an appropriate location to suspend the Drey. Ensure this is situated in a tree with dense foliage, and confirm that the type of tree does not shed its leaves during winter.
- You can add some camouflage by threading through fine branches from trees on the outside of the drey or layer some paper bark. This also adds weatherproofing, and gives a more natural look to the drey. Possums, especially ringtails, will usually bring their own interior design with them.

INSTALLATION

Position the Drey as high as feasible, ideally no less than 2.5 meters above the ground. The lower the Drey, the more vulnerable it is to predator attacks.

ATTRACTING A RINGTAIL POSSUM INTO ITS NEW HOME

Lure the Ringtail Possums to the Drey by placing Rose petals, Lily Pilly, or Bottlebrush flowers inside.



Eastern Grey Social life by Anita Thompson

This may not be new info for many, but unlike the wallabies around here, eastern greys have quite a complex social society, with strong family groups. As I have had an operation and lots of time to observe the mobs around my place, just a few pieces of info that I have noted.

- Eastern greys (EG) form small groups, of about 6-10 adults, joeys and weanlings (out of pouch but still with mum) with in a larger mob. These large mobs can be 50 or more.

- The small mobs are interesting. From my observations they are mostly females and usually related- sisters cousins aunts mothers. The out of pouch young (weanlings) stay with them for some time to learn about the area within they live, ie water sources, good feed, shady cool places, social protocol etc

- Young males after a couple of years, form their own bachelor mobs and move away from these smaller mobs and I often don't see them for a few years

- When reasonably mature, they often come back to a smaller mob and just "hang" with them and I think observe what the dominant males are doing. Interestingly, these dominant males usually ignore the upcoming competition- obviously not worth worrying about until they ARE competition.

- Dominant male/s then visit on a regular basis to check out who is likely to come into season They move from small mobs to small mobs to ensure they don't miss any female who may be receptive to mating.

Although google says there is not much social grooming, I find that there is a lot between mothers and their weanlings and vica versa. Then mothers are also used for boxing practice and working on their moves.



Dominant Male resting with the small mob



Mum is the punching bag...



2 year old male ready to leave the mob



"Weanling grooming his mum



Small mob with dominant male

***Please note-** although fences are visible, these roos are wild and can come and go as they please. They enjoy the shade of this tree during hot days



The Greater Bilby, sometimes depicted as Australia's Easter Bunny, belongs to a group of ground-dwelling marsupials known as bandicoots. There were originally two species of Bilby- The Greater and the Lesser Bilby, *Macrotis leucura*, but the Lesser Bilby is thought to have become extinct in the 1950s.

Habitat

Bilbies are found in a range of habitats from arid rocky soils with little ground cover to semi-arid shrublands and woodlands. They also known to inhabit spinifex and tussock grassland regions.

Distribution

Once common throughout the arid and semi-arid regions of the Australian mainland, European settlement has brought about changes in their habitat. The populations are now found within the Tanami Desert of the Northern Territory; in the Great Sandy and Gibson Deserts; parts of the Pilbara and Kimberley (near Broome) regions of western Australia; and the clayey and stony soils of the Mitchell grasslands of southwest Queensland.

The bunny problem Down Under

Rabbits might be cute, but in Australia, they've caused significant ecological damage since their introduction in the 19th century. Their rapid population growth led to overgrazing, soil erosion and competition with native species. In response, Australians sought a more environmentally friendly symbol for Easter.

Enter the Easter Bilby

The bilby, native to Australia, became the perfect candidate. Not only is it an adorable creature, but it's also endangered, with populations declining due to habitat loss and predation from feral animals. By promoting the Easter Bilby, Australians raise awareness about conservation efforts and support the survival of this unique marsupial.

Chocolate with a cause

Chocolate bilbies became a delicious way to support conservation. Brands like Haigh's Chocolates and Pink Lady have produced bilby-shaped treats, donating a portion of proceeds to organisations like the Save the Bilby Fund. These efforts have funded habitat restoration and breeding programs, aiding in the species' recovery.



To raise money and increase awareness of conservation efforts, bilby-shaped chocolates and related merchandise are sold within many stores throughout Australia as an alternative to Easter bunnies.