



## CONTACT US

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Marion	0403 444310
Ray	0428 156297
Beverley	0428 156297

### 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

### RSPCA Wildlife Hospital

3426 9910

### AUSTRALIA ZOO

### Wildlife Emergency

1300 369652

### Appointments

5436 2097

BIRO 0432507705

Seabirds 0404118301

### Reptile Rescue

1300 878903



## Presidents Report – September 2025

Hi everyone,

We had our AGM and we were pleased to see a few more people attending - we needed the numbers to keep O.N.A.R.R going. It is up to everyone concerned to attend this one day a year which is important, so put it in your calendar for next August 2026.

The new committee for our next year are myself as President, we have a new Vice President Marion Wall, Bev Clarke as Secretary, Ray Clarke as Treasurer. Melissa Arkell and John Williams stepped down.

We also have a new Data Base co-ordinator Randy Le-Bherz who is handling the reports.

I would like to thank everybody who sent me those wonderful cards for my birthday, you all made my day a special day thanks again from the bottom of my heart..

Yours in Caring

Linda D'Arcy

### GRANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – WIRES AND WOOLWORTHS

ONARR would like to thank WIRES AND WOOLWORTHS for supporting us once again with funds to purchase food for our wildlife in care.

Your support is very much appreciated!

### DATABASE – update your records now!

Our first three months of the year have now ended, and you need to either upload your records, or perhaps adjust previous records for animals that have left your care.

We ask that you do this by the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, so that we can then collate and check the database against registrations that have been given out to ensure that everyone is handling it all okay.

If you are new to the group, you should have received an invite from our website to create an account. Once this is done, you will have access to the Members Only page, and therefore the wildlife database. Let Beverley know if you have not received an invite.

Species and numbers registered for the last quarter.

Possums

Brushtail Possums	
10	
Ringtail Possums	
27	
Mountain Brushtail Possums	
Sugar Gliders	4
Squirrell Gliders	
Feathertail Gliders	
2	
<u>Other Fauna</u>	
Northern Brown Bandicoot	
4	
Long Nosed Bandicoots	
Phascogale	1

Birds

34	Rainbow Lorikeets
7	Scaly Breasted Lori
16	Noisy Miners
10	Australian Magpies
2	Ibis
16	Wood ducks
15	Pacific Black Ducks
3	Crested pigeon
2	Torresian Crow
1	Wonga Pigeon
2	Tawny Frogmouth
1	Purple Swamphen
1	Shining Bronze cuckoo
8	Masked Lapwings
2	Welcome swallow
6	Blue-faced Honeyeaters
2	Kookaburra
1	Ph. Coucal
1	Painted button Quail

Macropods

Eastern Grey kangaroos
Red necked wallabies
6

Swamp Wallaby

Reptiles

Flying-foxes

Black Flying foxes 2



**Did you know** that the brush tailed phascogale is also known by its native name of tuan. It is a rat sized marsupial of the family Dasyuridae and is characterized by a tuft of black silky hairs on the terminal portion of its tail. Males of this species do not live past the age of one, as they die after reproducing so at some point during the year there are only adult females with young males and females alive. Females can live up to three years, by which time their incisors are worn down to the nub.

Phascogales are serious little carnivores and have been known to steal eggs and attack chickens. They are listed as vulnerable. They are believed to have disappeared from half of their original range.

### POPPY'S WART JOURNEY CONTINUED

Things got worse.

The large wart on her arm got bigger and thicker.

Then she started to get more on her arms and legs

The vet and I both agreed that surgery wasn't as option as, the wart was so large, it would compromise the skin left on her arm, so we started anti-viral medication.

These were a tablet that was crushed and added to her milk. We completed about 6 weeks with no real improvement, so I eventually stopped them.

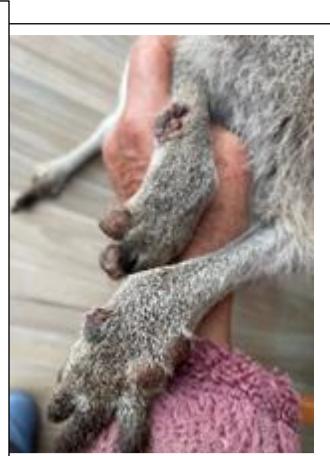
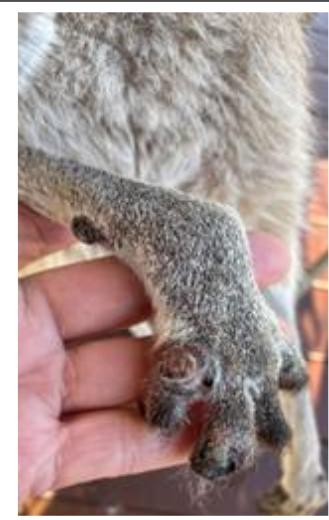
Then we started to knock the giant scabs off the warts and found they dried up and became much smaller.

I also tried anti-viral cream to no real effect either.

Eventually, the warts are starting to slowly get smaller and disappear, but slowly.

Overall, warts started to appear in February, then got larger and increased in numbers from then to August and are only now really starting to dissipate.

So when the research said they would self-resolve, they were right. All that was really required was patience.



On a separate topic, I released some ringtail possums at my place, and worried about the lack of canopy, I made rope bridges between the trees, They are using them and learn off each other on how to use them, very clever! Sorry about the low quality photo.



Enjoy spring and all the wonderful babies it brings.

Anita Thompson

## Poem – Melissa Arkell

Ai was kind enough to assist me with a poem about keeping macropods. Please, if your animals can stay home, keep them there. The sights, smells and sounds of the shops and cafes are terrifying for all animals in care. As busy people, we cannot always pop out only between feeds, but if you need to take them with you, think about how far from the bush the places we go are for them. They do not need socialization and desensitization like a puppy. They need quite to heal and grow to be released back to where they feel at home, far from our homes.

Let us not lead them where engines roar  
nor where the clang of city life  
fractures the hush meant for healing—  
young kangaroos with velvet coats  
and hearts that beat like skittish drums,  
uncertain of the world beyond quiet walls.  
Let us cradle them in whisper's arms,  
far from the blare of bustling crowds,  
where only the wind and distant birds  
may keep them gentle company.  
For their small souls, so tender,  
know solace in the soft;  
their spirits flourish  
not amid the racket and rush,  
but nestled in peace,  
where wildness may mend unseen.



## RAFFLE WINNER – Karyn Manktelow



The Committee would like to thank everyone who was able to donate goods or sell raffle tickets for our bi-annual raffle. Unfortunately, raising funds for a group like ours is a necessary evil that has to be done! We use those funds to supplement our running costs and purchase wildlife food and items for those carers who are able to take in injured and orphaned wildlife.

The winning ticket was sold by Heather J. (not the first time either – so thank you Heather). Second prize was sold by Brenda I. to a neighbour of hers Gary. Third prize was sold by Glenn O. to a cohort at the RAFF base, Bob – not the first time for Glenn & Shirlee either.

# A Tall Tale of Two Tawny Frogmouths by Randy Le-Bherz

## An introduction

Tawny frogmouths are a big-headed bird similar, though not related to owls, both having nocturnal habits and similar colouring. Tawnys are stocky, compact with rounded wings and short legs. They have a wide, heavy, olive-grey to blackish bill that is hooked at the tip and topped with distinctive tufts of bristles. Their eyes are large and yellow, a trait shared by owls. However, they are not forward facing like an owl's. Female Tawnys are often darker and smaller than male Tawnys.

## The differences between Tawnys and Owls

Feature	Tawny Frogmouths	Owls
Eyes	To the side	Fully forward
Beak	Forward facing	Downward facing
Feet	Small, weak feet	Powerful talons
Food capture	With large beak	With talons
Food	Insects	Invertebrates, birds, small mammals
Family relation	Related to Nightjars	Related to other true birds of prey

## The Tall Tale

Recently, I had the pleasure of having two tawny frogmouths in care. One, TF1, was a large, dark coloured bird, from Macleay Island. The other, TF2, was smaller, lighter in colour from Collingwood Park. They came into care 10 days apart, both suffering from head trauma. Not surprisingly, both were unsteady on their feet after initial release into the aviary.

TF2 was recorded as not being able to navigate and land correctly. This was evident from observing its first flight upon release into the seven-metre flight aviary. It had difficulty in finding the perch and its flight was all over the place.

Initially, TF1 was quite happy to be fed either thin strips or small cubes of bullock's heart. TF2 was more than happy to take strips, but not as comfortable with the cubes.

As TF1's stay lengthened, became more independent of me. And would up and fly away whenever I entered the aviary at feed times. TF2 was its usual self with mouth wide open just waiting for food. Both readily took pinky rats when offered.

As TF1's release time neared I approached the RSPCA for the actual address on the Macleay Island as I was informed that TF1 should be taken back to and released on the island. Arrangements were made with a Russell Island carer to release TF1.

Meanwhile TF2 was causing concern. The bird still appeared to favour landing using only its right leg, preferring to plant the left leg only after landing. When being fed, it would hop away to the right if it lost balance. As TF2 was near release I decided to have it re assessed by the RSPCA to allay any fears I had. The reassessment turned out extremely well. During corridor flight tests TF2 flew straight and level and showed no signs of a problem with the left foot. Seems it was pulling my leg.

TF1 and I boarded a ferry from Cleveland with an express run to Russell Island where it was handed over. Word back from the carer confirmed a successful night release.

As for TF2, it was released right on dusk, just prior to the gate being locked at the selected release site. It was pure magic to watch it swoop low and then glide into a humongous fig tree to settle down and look around.

TF1 spent 32 days and TF2 spent 21 days in care.

If you ever get the option to care for these magnificent birds I would suggest you jump at the chance. They provide plenty of amusing moments and are not vicious in any way. Their antics of head bobbing, trying to look invisible and following you with their large eyes will bring smiles to your face.



### Database news

The recent AGM discussed the new database. The database design makes reporting on the animals in care over the financial year a lot easier than before. Most attendees were happy however a few improvements were suggested; these included:

- Being able to include multiple animals as one group rather than each animal individually i.e. 10 ducklings as one entry
- Standardize entries for 'Other' as the reason for care as this would make reporting on reason for care easier as well
- Other possible standardizations mentioned were:

tree felling	<input type="radio"/> worms thread, throat, gape	Botulism is another reason for care for Ibis and other waterbirds
impact injury	Trauma Head, body, wings, internal	attacked by other animal
entanglement	L.P.S. as both birds and flying foxes now have this	disturbed nest site
feather damage		

If you have any further ideas, feel free to contact the committee and they will review and have discussions with Nicole, the database developer, to see what is feasible.

## Australian Painted Snipe by Linda D'Arcy

The Australian Painted Snipe is a wetland and marsh bird and is unfortunately on the endangered list.

Main threats are habitat loss due to irradiated agriculture and many temporary wetlands have been drained and water diverted to farming.

They are very secretive wading bird and prefer to live in wetlands swamps, and lagoons but they also use farm drains ponds and drainage ditches.

Known to be found near Brisbane Airport in 2025 and have not been seen since, the Australian painted snipe inhabits ephemeral wetlands, temporary swamps and shallow lagoons that periodically dry up and refill after rain. They hide in vegetation during the day and only feed at dusk and dawn – in other words they are a crepuscular bird. They probe for insects, worms, molluscs and other invertebrates in exposed mud.



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They nest on the ground typically amongst tussocks and reeds on small islands built by receding flood waters.

The species is thought to be polyandry meaning they mate with multiple males, if wetlands are not available, they will use ditches, drains etc, and they are nomadic by nature.

By the end of last year only 58 birds across 23 locations were found. Armed with the knowledge of which Australia painted snipe are using trackers will be able to engage with land holders to help manage their wetlands to support the endangered bird.

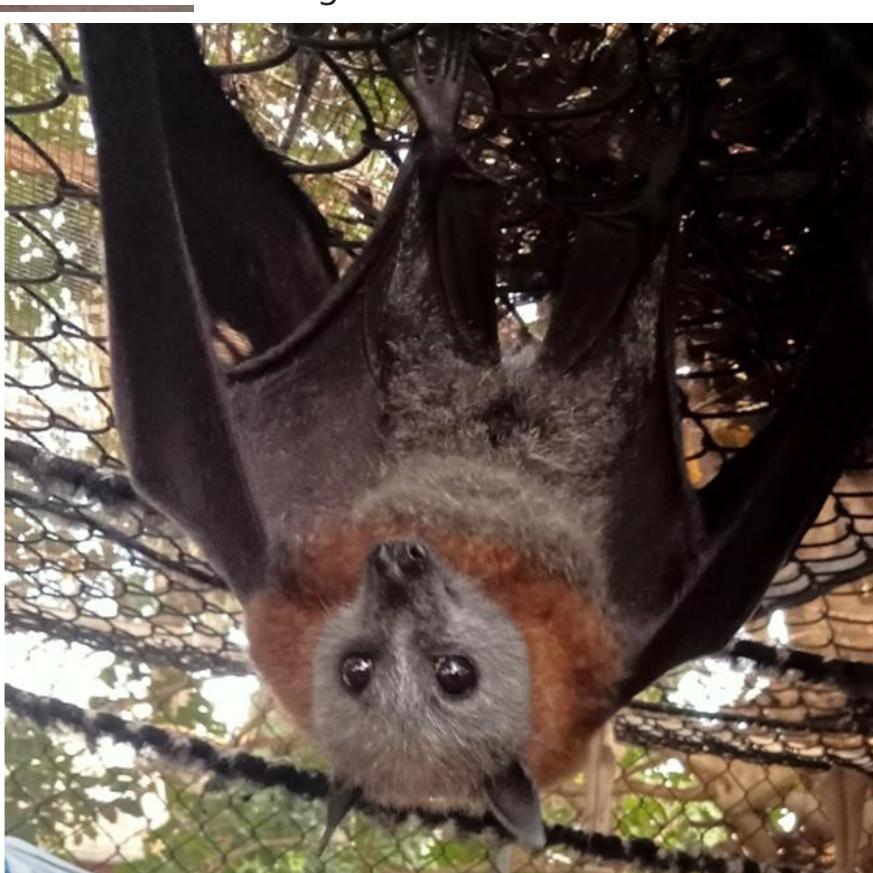
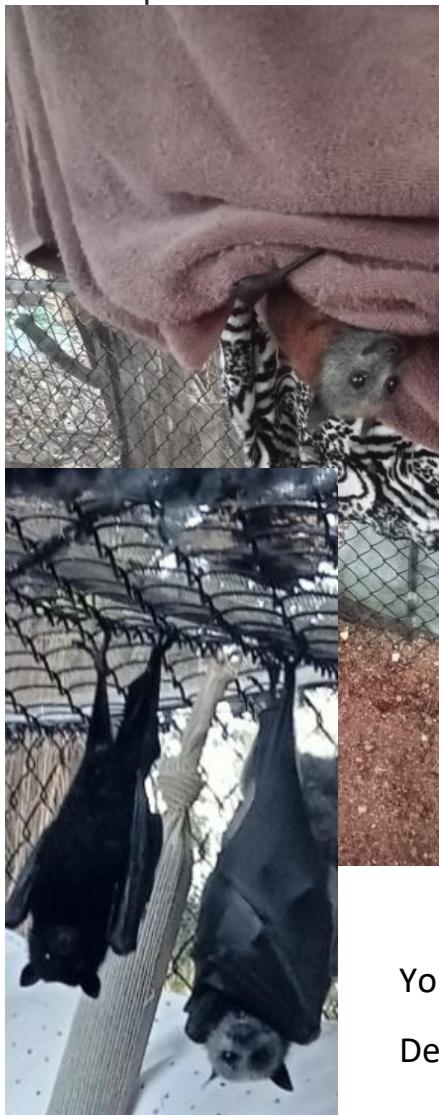
## FLYING-FOX REPORT – Dee Smith

A warm welcome to our new bat carers Silvia, Carissa and Justin. We look forward to working with you.

### **Out of Season pups.**

Out of season baby bats/pups do occur. The usual season is October/November, with pups occasionally occurring in September and December. But a pup born in April is definitely out of season. Pictured is "Fig" a Grey-headed flying-fox who was a pup in April and came into care with our carer Nicole. Pups are usually paired up with another one or two for company as they are a group animal. Unfortunately it can be hard to do with out of season pups.

Nicole did a wonderful job with "Fig" and he is a stunning little character who has completed creche and is off to the next stage at the Release site.



You will be notified when the next workshop is happening.

Dee Smith

## ***Possum Report – Beverley Clarke***

### **Raising Feathertail possums**

Ideally, if you are raising feathertails, hope they are at least 5 grams when they come in! I have raised them from 1 gram, but it is a hard slog and easier if they are just a smidgeon larger.

I use a vivarium to keep them confined, as they are definitely little escape artists, and can get through the smallest of spaces – one time I used a mouse cage, and it did not keep them in, and it took three days to catch one that had escaped in the house. Finch bird boxes are ideal as a ‘home’ for them, as they have a small opening. I put hay or straw in the box for them to snuggle into.

Feeding is very individual – I usually use Wombaroo Glider Nectar, which they love, and if supplying that, I find they don’t really want anything else apart from flowers with nectar in like grevillea or bottle brush. I use a small vase placed in a basin to prevent it from tipping over filled with water and put the flowers in that.

They are extremely fast little critters, so put their food in when they are sleeping. I cover the hole in the box when cleaning out the vivarium to prevent escapes.

Newspaper on the floor, because they are extremely messy little animals. I usually end up washing down the glass walls in the vivarium at least once a week. I have built a trapezium that fits into the vivarium for them to climb over.



Having said all that, they are delightful to raise. Release takes place at around 12-15 grams, and make sure that there are other feathertails in the area. No soft release for these guys. Put the box in a tree while it is light and leave them be.