



## CONTACT US

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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John	0400 097960
Melissa	0407030457
Ray	0428156297
Beverley	0428156297

### 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
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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



## GRANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ONARR would like to take this opportunity to thank Ipswich City Council for supporting O.N.A.R.R., Bev Clarke and Randy & Judy Le-Bherz with funding to purchase food for our wildlife in care. Thank you, Ipswich City Council – because of these grants more wildlife will be saved.

## Presidents Report – December 2024

Hi everyone,

Sorry for being a little late for Christmas - we have been so busy with animals over the break, with lorries with LPS and now also our bats, which is so sad.

There are not enough carers to look after them all - not only have the animals had to contend with there is also H5N1 which is the bird flu...this is threatening our shores if it hits here they are saying Australia would be facing a potential wildlife massacre and we are not prepared (just a bit of info from Australian Wildlife). You may have already noticed the lack of eggs for sale in your supermarket, and this terrible disease is working its way up the coast to Queensland. Some vets are currently refusing to take in birds from the wild.

On a better note I hope you all have a happy and safe New year.

Yours in caring

Linda D'Arcy

## DATABASE – update your records now!

The new database is running beautifully, and now is the time to add your records from this quarter or update your records from the last quarter. Both are easy to do.

Open the ONARR website, log in to the Members Only page. Add your new records, and do not forget to click on Submit at the bottom of the page!

To change a previous record – when an animal has been released, deceased, handed on, or euthanised, click on Previous Records.

Click on Member Name – find yours.

Click on Filter Incomplete Records – all your previous incomplete records will appear. Click on the one you need to change, complete, submit. Done.

Upcoming Workshops

Pain Management in Wildlife – WIRES online course \$20. February 9<sup>th</sup>  
Birds with 'Martin' At Linda's place. April 27<sup>th</sup>  
Mammals with Martin At Beverley's Place

Species and numbers registered for the last quarter.

Possums

Brushtail Possums 5  
Ringtail Possums 25  
Mountain Brushtail Possums

Sugar Gliders 2  
Squirrell Gliders 4  
Feathertail Gliders 1

Other Fauna

Northern Brown Bandicoot 2  
Long Nosed Bandicoots

Yellow-footed antechinus 1

Did you know...yellow-footed antechinus have a short life span – only one year for the males and two or three for the females.

Birds

108 Rainbow Lorikeets  
15 Scaley Breasted L  
2 Quail  
32 Noisy Miners  
2 Brown HE  
7 Australian Magpies  
1 Ibis  
3 Bush stone curlew  
28 Wood ducks  
1 Bar Shouldered Dove  
4 Little Corella  
1 Pale headed Rosella  
1 Kookaburras  
2 Crested pigeon  
8 Torresian Crow  
2 Masked Lapwings  
23 Pacific black duck  
16 Tawny Frogmouth  
9 Welcome swallows  
6 SC Cockatoo  
18 Butcher birds  
12 B.F. Honey Eater  
2 Currawong  
4 Galah  
8 Currawongs  
5 Sacred King Fishers  
7 Magpie-larks  
4 Figbirds  
1 King Parrot  
1 Chestnut Teal duck  
2 Moorhens  
3 Little Friarbirds  
3 Noisy Friarbirds  
5 Tree Martins  
7 Fairy Martins  
2 Willy Wagtails  
1 Bronze Wing Pigeon

Bush stone curlews love to sit in water – they need a large bowl, reasonably shallow, so they can sit and wallow!

Macropods

Eastern Grey kangaroos 3  
Red necked wallabies 3  
Swamp Wallaby

Reptiles

Long necked Turtle 1

Flying-foxes

23 Flying foxes



Our noisy miner numbers are dropping to be replaced by rainbow lorikeets yet again. Pacific Black ducklings have been more prolific than wood ducklings, and Susan had a Chestnut teal duck.

## Summer Weather Safety Precautions

Summer has arrived and we are experiencing some rather hot humid days often followed by a thunderstorm. The weather provides a perfect segue to remind ourselves of a few simple summer safety tips.

1. Sun protection – wearing light weight, long sleeved clothing, a hat and applying sunscreen are important whilst foraging / rescuing and attending to our animals outside.
2. Making sure you drink plenty of water and remaining hydrated is vital in avoiding heat stress and dehydration.
3. Wearing closed in shoes and be mindful of the areas you are foraging or rescuing in. It is breeding season for snakes, and they are actively looking for mates and food.
4. Check the fire rating. Do not attempt to rescue or forage in an area which is close to a bush fire no matter how small. Bush fires can travel at a formidable rate and change direction quite unexpectedly. It is quite possible to find yourself isolated from your car by a swift moving grass fire.
5. Check the weather- have a look at the BoM or other weather sites – avoid foraging etc if a storm is brewing. Lightening, high winds and heavy rain can turn a quick trip to get animal food into quite an adventure.

According to the RACQ website the BoM offers the following advice if caught out in a storm whatever you may be doing -

- o Never shelter under small groups of (or single) trees.
- o If far from shelter, crouch (alone, feet together), preferably in a hollow. Remove metal objects from your head and body. Do not lie down flat but avoid being the highest object in the vicinity.
- o If driving, do not drive into water flowing over roads.
- o Do not drive, walk, ride or swim through flood waters.
- o Seek shelter in a "hard-top" (metal-bodied) vehicle or solid building but avoid small open structures or fabric tents.

And finally plan your activity the best you can by considering the weather, the areas you are visiting, and the tasks involved. A night without new forage is a small issue compared to risking your own safety. There is always tomorrow.....

Within the home environment try not to waste our precious water by watering plants when its sunny and hot.

Give the garden a water when it's cooler in the afternoon when the sun has set or be an early riser and enjoy your garden in the cooler early hours of the morning This is better for the plants and better for you as it avoids the hottest parts of the day.

Do not forget our wildlife. Keep bird baths full of water for our hot thirsty friends and place a low water vessel on the ground for lizards and other animals that cannot reach a bird bath. I try to change and top up my bird baths and other drinking containers during the day as the water in them can get amazingly hot from the sun and is not able to be enjoyed by our wildlife.



Remember our domestic pets. Clean cool water is as essential to them as it is for us. On the very hot days ensure your pets have somewhere to cool to shelter out of the sun and heat. Caged pets do not have the luxury of being able to be moved to cooler spots so please remember to move them in to sheltered areas out of the sun, this is especially important if you are not going to be home.

With a little preparation and thought we, our pets and wildlife can all managed to get through another sizzling summer relatively unscathed.

To everyone at ONARR I hope 2025 brings you much peace, happiness, and good health.

Vicki Harmsworth.

ONARR - WHS

### ***Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome – LPS***

LPS is again striking down our beautiful lorikeets – both rainbows and scaly-breasted. RSPCA have been desperate to find carers for birds. Even if birds are not on your to-do list, if you have an empty aviary, please consider taking 10 or 12.

The birds we are sent are on the recovery list. Some come in just hopping – these guys need at least 3 weeks in care. Some come in just flying – depending upon recovery they may need two or three weeks.



I use Wombaroo Lorikeet and Honeyeater mix – two bowls in the morning, and another in the late afternoon. I also supply a dry lorikeet mix – I buy mine from Cezar's Choice in Ipswich as he makes it himself – but Harmony will do the trick. I do offer some wild bird seed – some birds take it and some don't. I have low branches in the aviary for those who need it, and once all the birds are flying you need to ensure that they can fly for two or three minutes. I do this by inserting myself into the aviary and moving in their space. As wild birds, they fly away from you so keep doing it. You will quickly be able to judge which birds are capable and which are not. Release is satisfying.

## The Joy of Kangaroo Joey Caring – Anita Thompson

I came across a mother roo hit on my road. She had not been there long and was thrashing about trying to move. I suspected a broken pelvis and at least one back leg, as she could not move, and her legs were at a very unnatural angle to her body. Fortunately, my partner could end her life quickly as there was no going back from that injury. Poppy was clinging to her neck. As I took her away, the mum was first warning me off, then calling out for her. Poppy was calling back. Overall a very traumatic moment for all involved. Although, for many reasons, I haven't had a joey for a while, as she was so close to my home, I assumed she was a part of the mob that hangs around my place, so I felt an obligation.

As I haven't done a kangaroo joey for a while, I thought I would share some reminders of the job that looking after Poppy has reminded me of....

- \* Wombaroo is worth the effort (changing from 0.6 to 0.7!) and cost- so far, she is thriving, with no issues at all
- \* Adding Impact and a probiotic has helped with this
- \* a bowl of dirt should be with a joey at all times- she loves the dirt and roots of grass
- \* same goes for water- as you feed less Wombaroo (than divet) I think they need more water
- \* I get her out of the bag to feed standing up (if old enough- when covered with fur and capable) I think it aids digestion. This also helps with training her to toilet outside the bag as early as possible
- \* spend time with the joey - just sit with her and build her confidence
- \* walk her around the perimeter of the enclosure- be prepared to have a covered shelter and large, well fenced pen to hop around
- \* "kangapouches" are great for carrying her around. I take her for walks around the property to familiarize her with where she will be released.
- \* persist with a dummy- this relieves anxiety
- \* get a buddy - especially for Eastern Greys- I have managed to find a boy of similar age, who joined us today, with mixed reactions from Poppy...
- \* what a delight they are with their belly scratches, fun antics with learning to use those back legs and frantic grabbing at the bottle at feed time.

How do people prevent bags from collapsing?? Would love some ideas- using pool noodle in the bag at the moment with limited success. Hope everyone had a relaxing Christmas and wishing all a great 2025.

Attached are photos of "Poppy and Samson". Last one is in 40 degree heat, so I use a fan and a mist spray to keep them cool.



## FLYING-FOX NEWS – Dee Smith

Hi everyone,

This year hasn't been a good one for the flying-foxes. Hundreds have come down with Flying-fox Paralysis Syndrome. FFPS Lorikeets also have the paralysis syndrome LPS.

These birds and bats share the same diet - pollen and fruit.

This Paralysis Syndrome has been happening for four years now, but this year has been the worse with many more bats coming down with it than lorikeets.

It follows heavy rainfall and affects all 3 species of flying-foxes in Southeast Queensland and North East NSW.

Symptoms are Paralysis & limb weakness, inability to swallow & difficulty breathing, impaired blinking and protruding tongues. There are 4 stages to this syndrome but if caught early they can be cured.

Pictured is a black male flying-fox rescued by our bat carer Marion. Notice the protruding tongue?

Unfortunately he was at stage 4 and was euthanased.

Very sad as he was over 800g in weight which means he was doing well out there until he got this FFPS.

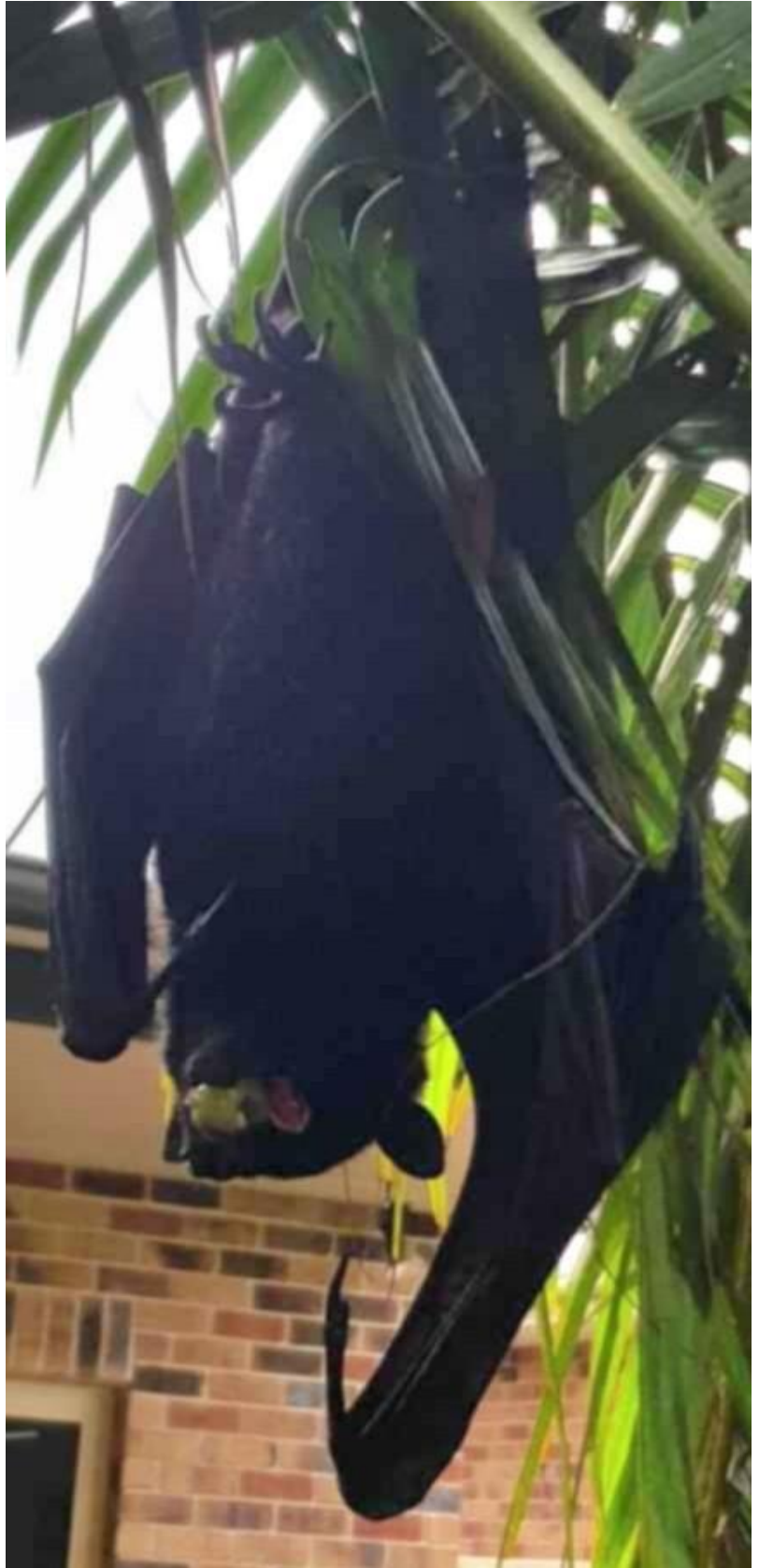
With lots of TLC it can take up to 8 weeks for bats to recover from this syndrome.

Esteemed Vet Tania Bishop who is on the committee along with Scientists trying to find the cause said there are two top contenders.

One is fungal toxins and the other is another toxin.

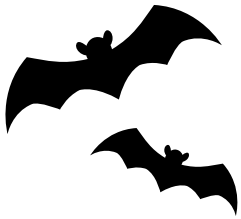
My belief is that it's an introduced plant that is not native to Australia.

Whatever it is I sincerely hope it's found as soon as possible.



While not strictly safety I thought it would be interesting to look briefly at the connection between bats and Halloween given 31st October was not too far away.

There are many theories and stories as to why bats are associated with Halloween, and they date back many hundreds of years.



An interesting theory developed around 2000 years ago when the Celtic people celebrated the festival of Samhain (Sah-win) on October 31st. The Celts believe that the division between this world and the other world was at its thinnest around this time of the year and could allow spirits to cross between the “worlds”. The festival involved large bonfires, food, and costumes. The costumes were believed to ward against fairies and spirits kidnapping them. The huge bonfires which were lit attracted enormous amounts of insects drawn to the light and heat, which in turn attracted bats who were more than happy to partake in this all-you-can-eat feast. The erratic swooping of the bats made the Celts believe the bats were spirits there to create mischief.

The famous 1897 Bram Stoker novel “Dracula” did nothing to improve the image of the bat and had readers believing when Dracula sucked blood, he turned into a bat which in turn made people believe bats were blood sucking demons. Of the over 1500 species of bat, it is believed that only 3 actually suck blood and they prefer birds and goats over human blood. And it is more like a mosquito bite than the image Dracula helped portray.



Christianity heavily influenced our views of bats in the Middle Ages. In the bible bats are described as inherently unclean, sickness causing animals. The fate of the bat was forever tarnished by the 700-year-old epic poem by Dante- “Inferno” which described the devil’s wings looking like bat wings. From that point illustrations of the devil or Satan were most often depicted with bat wings and unfortunately the poor bat was cemented in folklore as evil, satanic, and associated with witchcraft.

Whilst we know bats are not the blood sucking, dirty animal described in the past and are in fact an important member of our animal world, caution and care should always be taken when around bats and only those who are trained, vaccinated and experienced should handle them.

