
ACT Wildlife



Rescue • Rehabilitate • Release



Grey Headed Flying fox
(Pteropus poliocephalus)

August 2014 Newsletter

Hi,

Lots has been happening since the last newsletter.

TRAINING has been well attended. Thank you to our trainers, Megan Wyllie and Kirstie Hawkins. We now have 35 people with enough training to be caring. See below about availability of aviaries.

We held an Orientation and First Aid at the Environment Centre on the grounds of ANU. It was a 'quaint' venue, very rustic - with chooks in the back yard and the building covered in cobwebs.

Flying Fox Training, at the Lions Youth Haven in Kambah, covered the practical aspects of rescue, treatment and husbandry of flying foxes. Given the number of flying foxes we have received over the last couple of years we expect to have to care for many again this Spring and Summer.

The best thing we can all do is advise friends and neighbours about the correct netting and the correct way of netting fruit trees. Refer to this link:
http://www.wires.org.au/images/stories/pdf_other/Netting_Brochure_2012.pdf

The general rule is to use a densely woven net that you cannot poke a finger through and have it stretched over a frame around the tree. This means that bats can land on nets and take off from them instead of getting caught in loose netting. Bunnings are now selling appropriate nets following lobbying by wildlife groups.



EVENTS:

Reptile Training + BBQ
(see ad in body of newsletter)
August 31

Bird training
September 20

Orientation & First Aid
October 5

If you are interested in any of the above training please email training@actwildlife.net



Any carer going away for a holiday or even a weekend please call the phone 0432 300 033, to save time trying to call you.

Co-ordinators:

Mammals -

Erika Guenther
6288 3550

Birds -

Judy Tett
6231 4436;
0417 513 222

Reptiles -

Ingrid Singh
0414 540 925

Overall -

Marg Peachey
0450 961 530

Training/Admin -

Judy Tett
6231 4436

Phone -

Marg Peachey
0450 961 530

Fundraising -

Heather Peachey
0407 494 680

Education -

Cilla Ballard
6248 8220

Sew-K-nitter -

Petie Mitterfellner
6258-9958

Aviaries/Equip -

Martin Lind
6296 6400 (w)

Food -

Helen Calderwood
0449 089 914

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Our First Year 2013 - 2014

Let's Celebrate with a BBQ



Come and meet other members



*When: Sunday 31 August 2014
Between 12:30pm and 3pm*

*Where: Lions Youth Haven
Kambah Pool Road Kambah*

EVERYONE WELCOME - friends and family
BYO Drinks, Meat & Nibbles - salads provided

Hope to see you there!!

FUNDRAISING is so important. Thanks to everyone who helped with the BBQs at Tuggeranong and Fyshwick. Both brought in a combined profit of roughly \$2700. A sterling effort. Thanks to Heather for twisting so many arms for donated meat and bread and doing all the legwork. Businesses that donated goods were Brumbies Bakery, Brothers Oven Bakery, Coles, Woolworths, Erindale Discount Meats, Lost River Butcher, Jordo's Chop Shop Butcher, Home Grown Meats.

Heather also has more chocolates for fundraising. If you have sweet toothed workmates give her a call. You are asked to pay up-front for the chocolates (\$50) as that saves double handling with money. We are all time-poor these days! If anyone would like to take on **organising chocolate ordering and distribution** please call Heather. This activity provides a steady income. A good job for a member who is not caring for wildlife.....

24/7 PHONE We need more volunteers for the phone to relieve the burden on the few people who are currently rostered.

In Spring we are going to use a second phone to capture calls when the first phone is already engaged. Telstra has donated a second phone for this purpose.

Thanks to Sam for coordinating the phone, it is a thankless job and a difficult one keeping people motivated. Sam set up the phone roster on Google docs which is accessible to all and is a live document. She is taking a rest due to a high workload so if anyone would like to take it over please call Marg.

AVIARIES We have been donated several good aviaries. If you are interested please contact Marg as soon as possible. We are working hard trying to source aviaries to get new carers up and running.

ACT Wildlife is now an incorporated body, we have an ABN and TFN and is now classified as a charity. We have around 100 members. Our Facebook page has 188 likers!! The webpages is getting about 390 visits per day to the website. Not too shabby!

JOB VACANCIES -- To facilitate better care for our wildlife we need your help --

Phone Coordinator - Recruit new phone people from current and new members and ensure that the roster is filled. It means keeping an eye on the roster, getting to know everyone and distributing new information as it comes to hand.

Bird coordinator - Someone to keep an eye on WildMan to see who has what species and whether they can be put with someone else with the same species. Occasionally report to the committee.

Aviary relocation and assembling coordinator - from time to time we are donated an aviary which then needs to be collected (and usually requires dismantling) and taken to a carer and reassembled. There are members who will help when asked.

Aviary team members - to assist with the above - be willing to be in a team and help out when required if you are free at the time.

Possum box builder - Handy person(s) able to build possum boxes for possums to be raised and released in. They need to be build of thick planks of wood which can be supplied if necessary. They will be available for possum carers and perhaps for sale as flat-packs as a fundraiser.

Insect Collectors - in Spring and Summer carers with insectivorous birds need insects and spiders. This is quite time consuming so if you think you could help by a bit of collecting and getting them to carers (via the Bird Coordinator) it would most certainly be appreciated.

Chocolate sales coordinator - To order, pack boxes and coordinate chocolate sales. Not too time consuming except in small spurts!

Craft team - Are there any crafty people out there who would like to make items for sale at stalls? We need ideas and people to help. Some ideas that come to mind are Christmas cards, paintings, small stuffed "wildlife" etc.

Please call Marg if you can help.



Comment from
Denise Kay
after a recent
rescue - too
true!



Landscapes for birds – conserving and enhancing their habitats

On Saturday 5 July some of us attended an interesting public forum organised by the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG). We learnt about:

- The Kosciuzko to Coast (K2C) landscape connectivity partnership project, which aims to increase the resilience, extent and connectedness of target ecosystems through working with landholders and the community. There have been several successful bird-focussed projects, including the establishment of exclosures in grazed paddocks as 'stepping stones' for small bush birds.
- Habitat restoration experiments in Mulligans Flat-Goorooyaroo Woodlands, which are trying to understand how different habitat structures influence species diversity, and establish baselines for restoration.
- Greening Australia's bird monitoring project, which found that some bird species prefer revegetated areas, some prefer remnants (especially larger birds and hollow-using birds), and species diversity is higher in older, larger, and more complex vegetation structures (usually found in remnant patches).
- Progress of COG's Gang-gang cockatoo surveys. Lots of data have been collected, which will help our understanding of its ecology in the ACT.
- How each of us can help support bird populations by creating bird-friendly habitats in our gardens, e.g. increase tall shrubs (2-4 m) and decrease exotics.

The take-home message was that conserving and enhancing bird habitats are vital to enhancing the welfare of our native birds and conserving their populations.

Sharon Koh

Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference - May 2014 in Hobart

The conference is always a good time to catch up with friends made at previous conferences and to learn about wildlife caring, conservation and the latest research on wildlife in Australia.



Some of the papers that were the most interesting for me were:

Pasture Management for growing kangaroos - by Anne Fowler

Ethics, philosophical aspects, realities and reasons for wildlife rehabilitation - by Dr James Harris, a wildlife vet in Hobart

Stop the presses, I want to get on! - by Donald Knowler, a journalist

Nutritional Considerations for Hand Rearing Possums - by Gordon Rich, of Wombaroo, and

Shane Simpson's two papers on Reptiles: **Ending it all: Reptiles and Euthanasia** and **Filling in the cracks: Turtle shell repair**

Those are just some of the interesting papers, there were many more that might interest you. Check out [www. http://www.awrc.org.au/hobart-2014.html](http://www.awrc.org.au/hobart-2014.html)

Marg Peachey



Possum 296

at 96 days

at 109 days



THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS HELPERS:

Mick Mathes for building more hotboxes

Heather Peachey for organising the BBQs at **Bunnings**, and to the people who helped during the day. Also Heather for organising chocolates and their sales and to the people who are fattening their workmates!

To the trainers - **Kirstie Hawkins and Megan Wyllie** - not only for their presentations on the day but the hard work that goes into preparation. And **Judy Tett** and **Michelle Johnson** for coordinating the training days.

To **Jim Peachey** who has done all the ABN, TFN, Incorporation and Charity applications.

To the members of the committee who relentlessly work in the background to keep ACT Wildlife viable and moving forward. And anyone I have left out....

Last, but certainly not least, our fantastic members who rescue, transport, care for the animals and man the phone.

FIREWEED ALERT

Fireweed, a highly invasive pest plant, has been located in the suburbs of Forde, Crace, Casey, Franklin, Lyneham, Coombs and Chisholm.

Fireweed is a Weed of National Significance, a prohibited pest plant in the ACT and can cause irreversible liver damage to horses and cattle.

Help prevent the spread of Fireweed and report sightings to Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 or email fireweed@act.gov.au. Please note the exact location and if possible provide a photo to assist in identification.

It is a daisy like plant with bright yellow flowers that usually has 13 petals. It produces fluffy wind borne seeds and can produce tens of thousands of viable seeds.



Daisy like flower with 13 petals



Fireweed on a nature strip

You can also remove Fireweed yourself by hand pulling it out but wear gloves as it can irritate the skin. Double bag the weed and dispose of the bag with your regular rubbish (not recycled or green waste).



ACT
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