



## A note from the President

It has been a very busy summer with many orphans raised and released as well as injured and sick animals. Carers have coped with the extra load but will be really happy to have a rest over winter.

Our 2016 Annual Report has details of all our statistics. Please go to the website, [HERE](#)

We have a new committee, almost the same as the last one! Each and every member contributes to the running of ACT Wildlife.

Britt has initiated a couple of very neat ways of raising money for ACT Wildlife. Check out the Pizza Mogul deal (ongoing) and the Grill'd restaurant deal (for March only) below.

Thanks Britt.

Thanks to all our carers and volunteers for making ACT Wildlife what it is today, a respected and valued organisation.

Marg

... from Ingrid ...

Here's a quick way to help wildlife in a real, significant way. Like anything that is really worthwhile there is a price.

So, in return for one block of 4 hours on the day and time of your choosing each month you get:

- 1 x baby bird safely returned to its parents by the kids who picked it up
- 3 x badly injured birds carefully contained and taken to the local vet for treatment rather than dying in pain by the roadside
- As an extra plus, 1 of those birds turns out to only have a broken wrist. You place it with a carer who rehabilitates it to a successful release back to the wild.

- 1 x echidna protected from harassment and injury because you advise the person whose yard it is in to keep their dog inside until it moves on.
- That caller also now puts out a dish of water for passing animals to drink from in hot weather
- 1 x blue tongue lizard saved from a cruel death because your advice helps a caller to understand that it is not poisonous and won't attack their children.
- 1 x joey marsupial rescued from a cold roadside by a caller who follows your advice to keep it warm and take it to a carer. It gets to grow up.

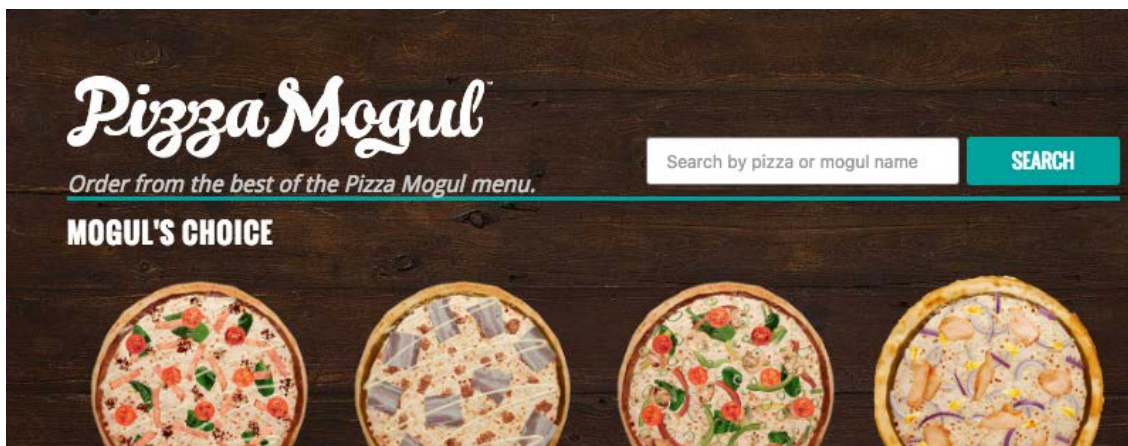
So, seven animals helped by YOUR action! Feels good at the end of the shift when you look back at your phone logs and see the evidence that that time really did make a difference.

That's what a shift on the Wildlife phone can do for animals. So, please commit to just one a month. You might save seven.

Note: This article is based on estimated call volumes. In the high season (Sep to Dec) you might expect more calls and in the low season (May to Aug) there might be fewer calls received in an average shift.

Note 2: The Ingrid Guarantee: If your advice doesn't make a positive difference to the welfare of at least one animal per shift, I'll buy you a pie. (I won't see a bakery till midwinter!)

To have your name added to the phone roster email [info@actwildlife.net](mailto:info@actwildlife.net)



## [PIZZA MOGUL](#)

Britt has organised a neat way to make money for ACT Wildlife. For each pizza ordered from the link above ACT Wildlife gets \$0.75

Scroll down until you see this part of the screen - put ACT Wildlife in the search bar and go from there!!

**FUNDRAISING**

**SEWING**

# VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to **Jennifer Brian** for coordinating and doing most of the sewing.

If anyone would like to take over as coordinator please contact Marg at [info@actwildlife.net](mailto:info@actwildlife.net)

Anyone wanting to help with making pouches and other things that will help wildlife rehabilitation please request the ACT WILDLIFE SEWING PATTERN BOOKLET. email Marg at [info@actwildlife.net](mailto:info@actwildlife.net)  
We have plenty of flannelette sheets and some other resources for use.

ACT Wildlife sent blankets, sheet, towels and bandages to Wildcare Queanbeyan to assist them in caring for burnt kangaroos after the Carwoola fires. Thanks Mandy for delivering our contribution and representing not just ACT Wildlife but also the Vee Dub (VW) Club!

## Cadbury chocolate FUNDRAISER

Heather is again holding chocolates for those of you who would like to sell chocolates on behalf of ACT Wildlife. Give her a call if you have chocoholics at your workplace or interest group.

Support ACT Wildlife and enjoy a nice glass of wine at the same time.

Go to [www.goodwillwine.com.au](http://www.goodwillwine.com.au) select ACT Wildlife as your charity and choose your wine.



2017 Training Schedule - ACT Wildlife - tentative			
29 January	Orientation	19 July	Phone/trans
12 February	Basic birds	6 August	Orientation
15 February	Phone/Trans	29 August	Basic Birds
19 February	AGM	10 September	Adv birds
19 March	Adv birds CANCELLED	8 October	Reptiles
29 March	Phone/Trans	18 October	Phone/trans
2 April	Orientation	19 November	Orientation
16 July	Possum	3 December	Possums

And for the month of March:

## Grill'd Burger restaurant in Belconnen.

Level 3 Westfield Belconnen, Benjamin Way, Belconnen 2617

They support three charities a month by customers voting for the charity of their choice when they eat there.

check out <https://www.grilld.com.au/restaurants/australian-capital-territory/canberra/belconnen> and scroll down to see the deal.

Another great avenue for fundraising.....



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## SPOTLIGHT ON A CARER

### Cheryle Le Fevre - Northside Possum Coordinator

Cheryle joined ACT Wildlife when the group first formed about 3 years ago, bringing with her a wealth of experience with raising and rehabilitating mainly Ringtail Possums and Red Kangaroos (the latter she described as being very laid back) in South Australia.

She took on the role of Possum co ordinator (shared with Michelle on the South side of town) a year or so ago, a logical extension of the practical experience she quickly gained with our predominantly Brushtail possum population.

Cheryle's set up at her home is impressive, although it is possible to be a Possum carer with much less equipment. Cheryle is definitely the Queen of cages and possum habitats. And she brings her very unique and slightly quirky sense of humour to housing her little charges.

Cheryle has converted her dining room into housing for her indoor babies. She has a humidicrib for the tiniest and sickest animals, allowing her to control temperature and humidity down to fractions of a degree. This has allowed her to raise little possums from as small as 40 gm, technically not viable, but a challenge she enjoys, with good success. She has banks of cages around two walls, small ones with 200 gm babies, up to a large cage of almost 2m x 2m x 1m for 500 gm juveniles about to go into her outside aviaries.

What Cheryle prefers, however, is caring for the most unwell and fragile little animals. When raising an otherwise healthy orphan there is always the fear that you will make a mistake and the little one will die, but the very sickest little babies arrive much more likely to die, so when they survive and thrive, it is a particularly sweet success.

But it is in the arena of possum pouches where Cheryle's creativity is let loose. She is a regular visitor to the Green Shed at the Waste and Recycling Depot, where she rescues quirky animal themed hats, soft

textured baby clothes and flannelette pyjamas. These are recycled to make very attractive possum and larger marsupial beds, both practical and pretty.



*Animal names and weights written on gum leaves*

At times Cheryle has as many as 14 baby possums and desperately needs more carers to take on some of the responsibility. If an orphan comes into care at about 200 grams it will take about 4 months to raise it to release stage, weather and seasons depending. But she is happy to share out the roles so that carers who are unable to bottle feed little animals during the day can take a youngster (or two) that needs 2 or three months in an aviary, with fruit and native browse once a day. For small joeys you will need a cage about 0.5m x 0.5m x 0.5 m and for larger juveniles you will need an aviary that is about 2 m high and at least 2m x 1m base, in a sheltered place away from family pets.

There is plenty of training for those who have not yet completed the basic possum course, and plenty of support from more experienced carers. It is a very rewarding part of wildlife care.

If you think that's a job you might enjoy contact Cheryle and talk to her about what's involved.  
(0401587844)



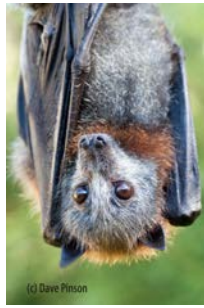
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## CREATURE FEATURE

### GREY HEADED FLYING FOX

(Pteropus poliocephalus)

The Grey Headed Flying Fox is one of two species that we are likely to see in the ACT. It is by far the most common. The other species is the Little Red Flying Fox.



Each year since 2006 there has been a colony of Grey Headed Flying fox (GHFF) in Commonwealth Park. During Winter the numbers diminish and many come back in Spring. Some years we have had a maternity colony here over winter where the females are pregnant and then give birth in September.

Flying foxes are indigenous to eastern Australia generally east of the Great Dividing Range but are also seen as far west as Adelaide.

They live in colonies of large numbers and move to new places following the fresh food. Generally they roost during the day near a lake, river or mangroves. Their main food is night flowering eucalypts, but because the east coast area is being constantly developed their food sources are being depleted and they are moving westwards. In Canberra they frequent suburban back yards eating fruit, starting the season with apricots, then plums and then fig trees.

Inappropriate netting causes them to become entangled and they come into care.

So far this year we have had 25 flying foxes in care. They are expensive to keep, eating about 5 pieces of fruit each every day. Medications are also expensive as injuries have protracted healing times and some injuries do not become evident for up to three weeks. The main injuries are wing membrane and finger breaks, injured toes and sore mouths from trying to escape from netting.

Flying foxes in care very quickly become used to the daily routine and remain tolerant of handling. Each has its own personality and a favourite place in the aviary.

We release them into the colony in Commonwealth Park when they are healed enough to go.

In September, October and November we have baby flying foxes (pups) in care.

When they are starting to fly at 12 weeks of age we send them to a creche in NSW where they learn to be with a colony of flying foxes and they are released from there.

## Interesting links

### **More on Flying fox IUCN status**

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/18751/0>

**Breakthrough in development of vaccine to treat Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumours**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-09/scientists-successfully-treat-devils-for-tumour-disease/8339630>

## Mange program in Tasmania

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-13/wombat-sarcoptic-mange-funding-boost-tasmania/8348226>

## Mange Project Update

The Mange Project is continuing on schedule. Volunteers have been busy each Saturday and Sunday, dosing burrow flaps, replacing damaged flaps (some wombats are just plain grumpy!) and retrieving video footage from cameras.

The project has moved to once fortnightly treatments and will end in the next few weeks. By then the video data will have been analysed and the effectiveness of the treatment will be obvious. Expect an update in the next newsletter.

Thank you to the regular volunteers who have turned up in some very unpleasant summer heat, and also to the new volunteers, recruited following some media publicity.



*Lanyon Homestead*



ACT Wildlife Inc is a charity with DGR status. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Your donation will go directly to help orphaned, injured and sick wildlife in our care

Donate

keeping in touch

## OUR PATRONS



### **Genevieve Jacobs**

Genevieve grew up on the family farm near West Wyalong, complete with a large, rambling garden where she learned the value of mulch at her mother's knee.

After school, she worked as a rural journalist on local and regional papers across the South West Slopes, where she covered everything from bushfires to state politics (and the odd darts tournament too...).

As a freelance journalist she has written for national gardening and fine arts magazines and has lectured widely on artists and their gardens.

She was also the ACT and Southern NSW co-ordinator for Australia's Open Garden Scheme.

The arts, gardening and the environment, history and politics, and family issues are among Genevieve's interests but as an incurably nosy person, she enjoys discovering people's stories and loves nothing more than a good yarn.

Genevieve is happy to promote our cause as often as possible on her morning radio show, and kicked off this commitment by interviewing Marg about the problems associated with fruit tree netting and the local flying fox population. Genevieve has also offered to act as MC at any fundraising events we run.





## Ian Fraser

Ian is an Australian naturalist, conservationist and author, based in Canberra since 1980. Since 1997 he has presented a fortnightly natural history show on Canberra ABC Radio, and teaches bird and other natural history courses to adult students at the ANU Centre for Continuing Education.

He has been running the educational Environment Tours program - natural history bus-based tours throughout Australia - in association with the Canberra environment movement since 1984, and more recently has worked for Chris Carter of Time Travel Australia leading natural history tours to South America.

Since 2002 Ian has written a monthly essay on birds for Gang-gang, the Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group. He has served on the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Natural Resources Management Advisory Committee (and its various predecessors), advising the ACT government on biodiversity issues, since 1984, and has chaired it since 2005.

In 2011 his book 'A Bush Capital Year', written with artist Peter Marsack, was awarded a Whitley Certificate for the Best Regional Zoology. Ian was awarded the Australian Plants Award by the Australian Native Plants Society in 2001, and the Australian Natural History Medallion in 2006. Ian is partnered to journalist and ABC local radio presenter Louise Maher.

Ian Fraser, environmentalist and author, is going to become a regular contributor to our Facebook page and we look forward to having his feedback on tricky issues regarding wildlife and the local environment.



## Karen Viggers

*Shown here giving new wombat joey Lilli a check up.*

Karen is the **award-winning internationally best-selling author of three novels:** *The Stranding*, *The Lightkeeper's Wife* and *The Grass Castle*.

She writes contemporary fiction set in Australian landscapes, and her work explores connection with the bush, grief, loss, healing in nature, death, family, and friendship. Her books also tackle contentious issues including choices at the end of life, whale rescue, kangaroo culling and scientific research on animals.

Karen is a wildlife veterinarian who has worked and travelled in many remote parts of Australia. Her novels are known for their evocative portrayal of people, landscapes and wildlife.

Karen will also stay in touch with what is happening with our wildlife via social media - being a mother of teenagers will be a real advantage here. Karen will be hugely helpful with all things veterinarian, although, her experience as an author will also add an interesting dimension to her contributions.

AND NOW..... JUST FOR FUN.....





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