

## ACT WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER

### December 2017

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**ACT Wildlife**  
Rescue • Rehabilitate • Release



## A note from the President

Well, another year has finished. ACT Wildlife is now officially four years old!

A huge thanks to all our volunteers and members, without your support we cannot do the work we do.

The ACT Community knows us well now and we are getting many calls each day. Lately we have been receiving over 50 calls per day. Many thanks to phone volunteers and transporters/rescuers. This is how we receive animals and so is the pointy end and essential for our operations.

Then without our species coordinators and carers the animals would not be rehabilitated.

Behind the scenes the committee are tireless in overseeing all correspondence, policies and procedures, training and financial matters.

And of course we could not do without our donors. This is an important part of our income and it shows that we are appreciated in the community.

Thank you everyone, one and all. We hope you have a great festive season and very few animals to care for!

Please enjoy the newsletter. Carers and other active members **please take**

Marg Peachey

## Volunteer BBQ

On the 10th December we held a Christmas BBQ and thank you for our valued volunteers. Over 40 people attended.

The venue was our new Jerrabomberra Wetlands ACT Wildlife clinic. It was very exciting to see the building all done up and ready for occupation.

Thanks to Judy for donating her BBQ, Heather for organising sausages, Jim for cooking for so long, committee members for salads and desserts. Dorothy and Martin have worked tirelessly organising the entire Jerrabomberra Wetlands site over the past six months.



Good news!

You may not have heard - ACT Wildlife is soon to have a 'headquarters'. We have been offered a small building and surrounding ground at Jerrabomberra Wetlands. We have also received an Environment grant to outfit it for receiving animals for assessment before they are sent to carers.

But for now we will be using it as an administration hub and gathering space for volunteers. We hope to occupy the building by February.

## WildMan

WildMan is being improved for the new year with improved and more appropriate dropdown menus. The species coordinators have reviewed the reporting we need and Kumiko, Heather and Marg discussed the improvements which have now been implemented.

Please read the dropdowns carefully as some are quite different. If you see any room for something missed please give me a call.

We are holding a training session for WildMan on 25th March. This is to gain uniformity across data entry.

Marg

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## **Bird report (September to November 2017)**

By Kumiko Callaway

635 birds (50 species) came into care during September, October and November. About 50 birds less than the same term of last couple of years. 339 birds (53%) were successfully released. Australian Magpies and Australian Wood Ducks were the top 2 species in this quarter followed by Galahs, Pied Currawongs and Pacific Black Ducks. We had great success to rescue duck families (ducklings and parents) and safely release them at the destination ponds and lakes as well as reuniting baby rosellas in parrot boxes with their parents after they were removed from tree hollows and roof spaces.



possible location to the original hollow. We took the babies home overnight and went back early in the following morning around 7am to set up a parrot box and waited for their parents to come back to the area. When they flew to the area, we showed babies and let them make loud calls which drew their attention. They watched for the whole time while we nailed the box into the trunk. We placed the babies in the box one by one while the parents watched on. We went back in the afternoon to check the babies' crop – full of grains (meaning they have been fed by their parents). The residents watched the parents going in and out of the box all day. We went back 2 weeks later – all the babies already fledged. People who work there also saw them flying out recently.



Parents watching us working on parrot box (photo above)



## Hi-Viz Vests

ACT Wildlife now has Hi-Viz vests for members who rescue and release. They are \$10 each.

Please deposit \$10 into the ACT Wildlife account: BSB 633-000 a/c 151980604 with reference [Hi-Viz (surname)] and the treasurer, Jim, will organise to get it to you!

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This is a new app for echidna sightings to help an echidna study.

Go to their Facebook page to find out about it.

Facebook page name is EchidnaCSI



### **Rugby the wombat makes a speedy recovery**

Lindy Butcher

Rugby the wombat (weight approximately 30 kg) came into care after spending up to 3 days stuck in a fast flowing storm water drain. He was rescued by rangers and brought into an ACT Wildlife wombat enclosure. After 5 days of eating and sleeping he suddenly felt better and this is how he asked me if he could go home now.

Rangers returned him to a safe environment a few hours later.

[Video of his capture](#)

[More footage](#)

[and more....](#)

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## **Leg Mites in Magpie and Currawong**

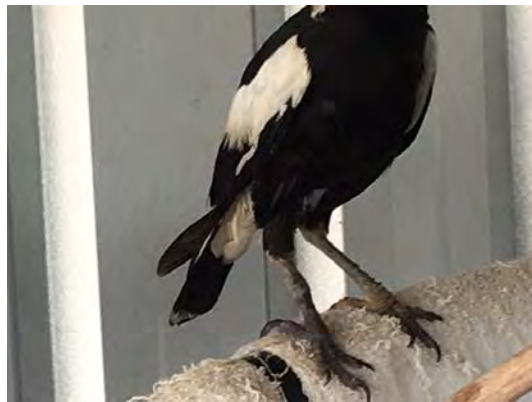
There has been an increase in the number of magpies and currawongs sighted with leg mites.

currawong and send body samples to Taronga Zoo.

The magpie was treated with Dectomax, similar to Ivomec. It also had an infection in one foot caused by swelling. It was drained and a course of Clavulox was given for 5 days. the magpie was in care for 1 month and 17 days, at no time was she grateful. Every time I had to pick her up for treatment she managed to bite me! A very angry bird! Once the initial Keratin 'bundle' fell off I discovered that her right leg had a break. She was favouring it all along but now I knew the reason. It healed well.

Because mites can be transferred to other birds I kept the magpie in a large stainless steel cage (for cleaning) and then in a small aviary. Quarantine is very important to prevent spread of the mites. The small aviary will be thoroughly cleaned and new branches put in and will be rested until next Spring just to be sure.

Thanks to Wendy Townsend, ACT Government Vet, and Jasmine from Parkway Vet Clinic.



## HELEN GEORGE

Few people have devoted over 45 years of their lives to conservation. However, that is the achievement of the winner of our Serventy Medal for 2010, Helen George. Helen was one of the people who contributed to the forming of the Wildlife Information and Rescue Service (WIRES) and since that time she has been active in educating wildlife carers how to be responsible for the animals which come into their care. Helen is reputed to be the first person to successfully raise an orphaned greyheaded flying fox to maturity. This occurred in 1978 and the flying fox was less than 24 hours old when Helen received him. Much of his life was spent as an education animal, living for almost 23 years. Helen developed considerable expertise in this area and, in 1987, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to conservation, principally for her work on the plight of the grey-headed flying fox. She was one of the key advocates for getting the NSW Government to place them on the

academic qualifications, is often called on to talk to a variety of organisations, students and tertiary institutions. With such a length of experience, her knowledge is naturally not confined to flying foxes. She is a keen observer and recorder of data and rigorously pursues scientific principles.

What I learnt from Helen was to make sure I recorded all information regarding the animal in care and to pass on any relevant information freely to help other carers.

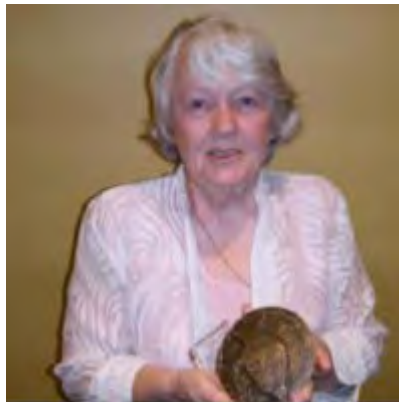
Helen was a stickler for the carer to understand how the animal lived in the wild and to try and mirror that as close as possible.

I have also learnt one should make time to contact and visit friends and family even though we are busy!

Helen passed away at home, on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 from a massive heart attack.

Helen was a great mentor and will be missed.

Sonya Stanvic



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## Training Calendar for 2018

The tentative training dates are:

**Orientation:** Saturday 3rd February

**Basic Birds:** Sunday 25th February

**Advanced Birds:** Saturday 17th March

WildMan training: Sunday 25th March (Recommended for everyone using WildMan)

**Orientation:** Saturday 7th April

**Basic Birds:** Sunday 28th April

**Reptiles:** Saturday 12th May

**Possums:** Sunday 3rd June

**Orientation:** Sunday 13th July

**Basic Birds:** Sunday 29th July

**Advanced Birds:** Sunday 19th August

**Reptiles:** Sunday 21st October

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Training has been revamped and peer reviewed. Sessions are available for new members and non-members. Carers needing to upgrade training are encouraged to come along to one or more sessions (free). Carers from other wildlife groups are welcome.

Orientation is free, all other courses \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members.

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## The delights of caring for Macropods

I've been very fortunate to share the young months of several red necked and swamp wallabies and a wallaroo. To observe so many changes - their personalities developing, their gentleness, awareness and cheekiness, their first wobbly hops out of a pouch, somersaulting back into a pouch, picking up speed as they race around the backyard, starting to lap water from a bowl, starting to groom themselves. It's been nice to be able to offer them a safe place, to encourage the ones who slowly sip milk and to slow down the gulpers, to watch out for sickness and stress and to watch them, the way they watch the world and interact with each other. I've found I need to always have in mind the pattern they are in and the next step they should take towards independence whether it be in reducing milk feeds, starting weaning, introducing new browse, sleeping outside.... The support Lindy has given me in guidance, in finding solutions for any signs of problems and in minding them when I've been away from Canberra has been wonderful. If you would like to care for macropods it is well worth doing the training.

Joan McKay



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## A Visit to the Department of Agriculture and Water

One of the nice things about being a volunteer with ACT Wildlife is the contact we have with members of the public, and the opportunities this gives us to promote what we do.

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Resources about how we can all live with wildlife in the suburban environment. Within the Department is the ECONet Committee (Environmental Contact Officers Network) - a voluntary network of departmental officers who work to promote environmentally friendly and sustainable office practices to improve the department's environmental footprint, reduce resources consumed and increase awareness of environmental and sustainable and it was this group that hosted my visit.

As part of that event the people who came to hear the talk also made a very generous donation of \$230 to ACT Wildlife and made donations of fur for Snuggle coats, a group that receives unwanted fur clothing and other fur items to repurpose as warm beds for little animals. Many of ACT Wildlife's little orphaned mammals have been comforted by the lovely insulating properties of these fur pieces. The accompanying photo is of little wombat Josephine being weighed in her fur lined scales.

The money so generously raised will go towards providing carers with some of the consumables that many volunteers meet from their own pockets.

Our sincere thanks to all those who came along and took with them some ideas for living with our urban wildlife and for their generous donations.

Lindy Butcher  
ACT Wildlife  
Wombat and Macropod coordinator



We have polo shirts and hats for sale. Hats are \$30 and polos shirts are \$45.  
Deposit money into ACT Wildlife Inc BSB 633-000 a/c 151980604  
with your surname and what articles you want. Then email Jim at  
[treasurer@actwildlife.net](mailto:treasurer@actwildlife.net) with size and we will get the uniform to you

Shirts come in all sizes, mens and womens.

## SEWING GROUP

Our keen sewers are meeting at the Aranda Fire Station fortnightly with their machines to produce goodies for carers and also items for sale at stalls.

## FUNDRAISING

### Cadbury chocolate FUNDRAISER

Heather is again holding chocolates for those of you who would like to sell chocolates on behalf of ACT

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and enjoy social sewing please call Paula on 0422772652 or email her at peachypaulie@hotmail.com

interest group.

Heather 0407 494 680

We have plenty of flannelette sheets and some other resources for use.

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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.

So far we have been given **\$510** by Goodwill Wines, a donation from wine sales where our charity is chosen.

The Peachey family has probably contributed to this in a big way. The wine is very drinkable!



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## SPOTLIGHT ON A VOLUNTEER

### Paula Edmondson

Sewing Coordinator

A small group of us have been meeting each fortnight, since the 19<sup>th</sup> of August, at the Belconnen Fire Station Community Room.

We have been making: possum pouches, nests, macropod pouches, cage liners, hammocks and mummas (for baby flying foxes).

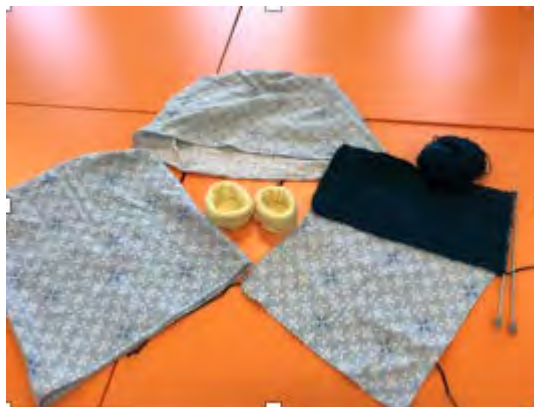
Although only a small group meet each fortnight, there have been dedicated sewers and knitters who have been contributing. I am able to pick up their creations and distribute them as required.

I would love the group to grow, regardless of whether you join us each fortnight to sew/knit together, or whether you'd prefer to work at home. It doesn't matter what your craft is (cross stitch, felting, painting, crochet, woodwork...!), by building a group of crafty 'warriors' we'll create projects to help care for injured animals or sell to raise money for ACT Wildlife. And I should also affirm that you can join the group with minimal/no skill (indeed, this classification best describes me).

I am currently planning an afternoon tea in January/February for anyone who might be interested in the group, and invite carers to gauge knitted/sewn resources they use most frequently so the sewing group meet these needs.

If you have a crafty passion you'd like to offer, or want to join the group, please let me know at

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## Interesting links

[Interesting thoughts on reintroducing wombats to the environment.](#)

[Feeding birds:](#) Not sure that I agree with some of the feeding tips at the end of this article.

[Some colouring in for the children 1](#)

[More colouring in](#)





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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**

Thank You to....

Drakeford IGA, Yarralumla IGA for generous donations of fruit and vegetables for possums and flying foxes.

Food Works / Liquor Land team at the Pearce shops who are supplying possums Jackson and Dickson with fruit and vegetables.

<http://www.foodworks.com.au/Pearce>

**keeping in touch**

This beautiful Tawny Frogmouth family has taken up residence in Lindy's garden. The adult bird is sitting on a loosely constructed nest and has protected the two chicks through some of the heaviest rainfall we have seen for a long time.



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