



A note from the President

Thank goodness for winter! Both the number of animals coming into care and the number of phone calls has reduced greatly giving us all some respite.

However, if you would like to help out with the phone or transport we would welcome your input. Our regular people are exhausted after summer and need a break. Please contact Jen (0432 300 033) if you are able to help. Training is provided. For the phone duties you need to put aside time to take calls, for a four hour shift or longer.

I have recently been on holidays and made a point of meeting other wildlife carers from Queensland and Northern NSW. It was terrific to see the different ideas and I gleaned heaps of tips.

Thanks to all our supporters, in whatever capacity. We need you all, from carers, to phone and transport helpers and to donors and the governing committee.

Thanks to the National Zoo and Aquarium for a most generous donation of \$5000. It will go a long way to helping us with our job of rehabilitating and releasing native animals in the ACT.

Marg

Reuniting baby birds with their parents

Reuniting babies with their parents is one of our most important and valuable jobs in spring. While we do receive true orphans whose parents were killed in car accidents, and injured baby birds which were brought in due to cat attacks, car accidents or sickness, we also receive many fledgling birds which are healthy but picked up by members of public who thought that they were too vulnerable to leave there or could not find parents who might have been out searching for food.

It is very important to let the babies stay with their parents as much as possible. Although we can give them food and safe place to grow if needed, we cannot be as good parents as their true parents. Only they can teach their young to learn everything they need to know to live as their own species. As long as they are healthy and parents are willing to raise them, we should

not interfere and should respect their right and their responsibility to raise them.

Here are the common species we reunite. Photos show the beautiful moment of reunion.

Australian Magpie: Some magpie babies come out of the nest before they can fly, so they spend days on the ground walking around. Very easy to know if they are the true parents or not. As soon as they hear the baby's call, they come to you straight away. If they swoop you and start to feed the baby, you can just leave him with them. If they attack the baby or ignore, we need to walk around the area as their territories are close to each other. The baby might have had wandered into the neighbour's territory when it was then picked up.



Pied Currawong: We need to watch from a quite distance as parents often don't come down if you are around. Parents will come in the area once they hear the baby's call. Place him on a branch and go far from him and observe until parents feed him.



Red Wattlebird: The baby will give the constant begging noise which parents can hear and come straight away. Once you leave him on a low branch and step back, you can see parents to feed him very soon. Usually the territories are not close to each other, so it is easy to know if they are the right ones.

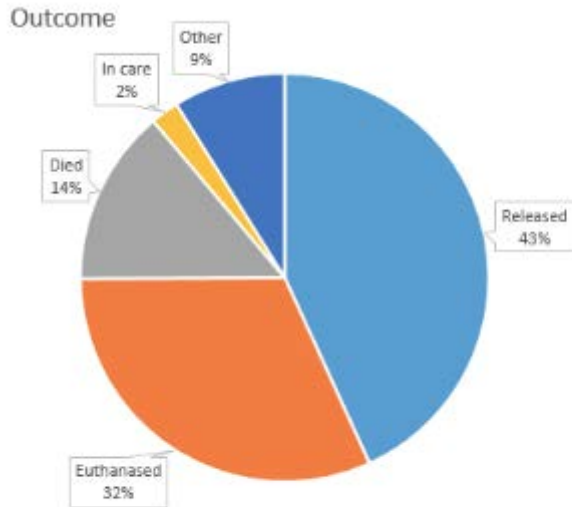


Noisy Miner: Like the Red Wattlebird, the baby will give constant begging calls which the parents come for. The difference from Red Wattlebird is that any adult birds even though they are not parents will also come to check on him. You might see the adult checking in the begging baby's mouth by inserting his beak into baby's mouth (as if he is feeding the baby but the adult does not have any food to give in the beak). If they find that he is not their baby, they will just leave and ignore or start to peck him. Their territories are often very close each other (sometimes 3 family groups in a same carpark), so we have to make sure whether they are the right family. Usually there are other adult members other than parents – such as previous year's young help feeding. Once they have their baby back, they will ask you to leave with their tongue out and threat calls.

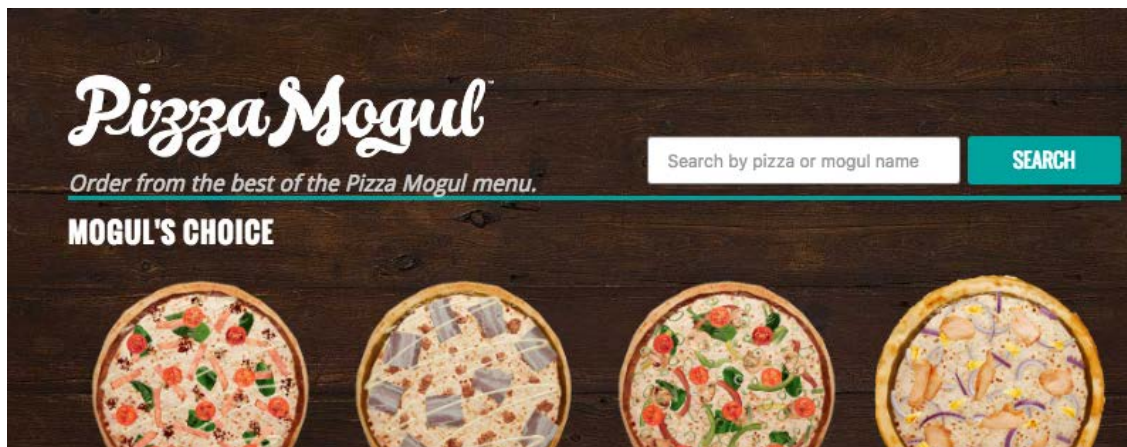


Crimson and Eastern Rosellas: Their babies are often taken out of the hollows when trees are cut down or out of the roof space where they nest. We make sure that we have all the babies and put up a parrot box on a tree near the entrance of the original nest. Wait until parents come back (sometimes it will take a few hours), then show the babies to them and feed them. We put them into the box one by one while they watch. We go back to check every 3-4 hours if they are fed by touching crop and feeling for grains. If not yet, we feed them until parents go in and restart rearing them. In most cases, they start to use the box on the same day.

If whole nest comes down by storm etc: We had some cases of Magpie-larks and Pied



A Galah flying-away happily after his 2 fractures at ulna & radius healed perfectly with cage rest. Was in care for 4 weeks.



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!!

SEWING VOLUNTEERS

Welcome and thanks to Paula Edmondson who has volunteered to be our Sewing Coordinator.

Anyone wanting to help with making pouches and other things that will

FUNDRAISING

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

help wildlife rehabilitation please
request the ACT WILDLIFE
SEWING PATTERN BOOKLET.
email Marg at info@actwildlife.net
You will then be put in touch with
Paula

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

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
select ACT Wildlife as your charity
and choose your wine.

So far we have been given \$462
from Goodwill Wines, a donation
from wine sales where our charity is
chosen.



2017 Training Schedule - tentative			
16th July	Possum care		
22nd July	Basic Birds		
6th August	OPTIONS (Orientation)		
10th Sept	Advanced birds		
19th Nov	OPTIONS (Orientation)		
3rd December	Possum care		Orientation

SPOTLIGHT ON A VOLUNTEER

Jen Finlayson

Phone, Rescues and Transport Coordinator and
Northside Bird Coordinator

"Who you gonna call?" (sorry Ghostbusters!)

When members of the public find an injured native animal, they call ACT Wildlife on 0432 300 033. Sometimes, the person they speak to on the other end of the phone is Jen Finlayson. If not Jen then one of 12 - 40 volunteers who take on the job of being the first point of contact with our organisation for callers with concerns about wildlife.

Jen is a busy mum and grandma as well as the Phone, Rescues and Transport Coordinator. She is also the Northside Bird Coordinator.

The majority of calls that the phone volunteers deal with are for advice about sick and injured animals, most frequently birds falling victim to vehicle strikes, and suffering disease. Many callers are unaware that they can take an injured bird and animal to the vet for assessment at no cost to themselves. Vets will call ACT Wildlife if the animal needs rehabilitation and/or release. Animals requiring care are then allocated to carers with experience with those species.

Members of the public who find injured Eastern Grey Kangaroos (EGK) should call Access Canberra who will notify the Rangers to see to the animal. Orphaned EGK's can be taken care of by carers in NSW wildlife organisations. If the animal is a wallaby rangers can humanely euthanase an injured adult and orphaned joeys are then raised by ACT Wildlife volunteers.

Occasionally calls are received about mangy wombats, a seriously debilitating and frequently fatal condition, and these people are directed to call Access Canberra. However, orphaned wombats, even those with mange, can be cared for by our volunteers.

At times, possum joeys are found, sometimes by the family pet, other times by eagle eyed walkers. The phone volunteer will link the finder to the species coordinator for assessment and allocation to a carer.

Spring and summer sees an influx of baby birds. Again, the phone volunteer will refer these to the northside or southside bird coordinator who will assess whether the bird is actually orphaned (some are inadvertently "kidnapped" by well-meaning members of the public and can be reunited with their parents) and allocate them to a carer who will raise the orphan to independence and release.

Flying foxes can become entangled in fruit tree netting. Members of the public should not attempt to catch or handle flying foxes or microbats as these may carry the deadly Lyssavirus. Our phone volunteers will organise a rescue by an immunised and experienced rescuer.

Lizards are often attacked by family pets and injured lizards should be taken to a vet for assessment. However, a beautiful blue tongue lizard or dragon that is crossing through your garden can be left to continue on its way. Callers are always advised to put pets inside until the lizard has moved away.

The same advice will be given about echidnas that find their way into gardens. People should just enjoy its brief visit and let it move on unhindered.

Another important role that Jen coordinates is that of transport volunteers. While members of the public are encouraged to take safely contained wildlife to vets, carers and coordinators, at times it is necessary for a Wildlife volunteer to transport an animal to or from vets, carers and rescue and release sites.

All calls regarding snakes should be made to Access Canberra or a snake relocation business.

Jen shared some amusing stories of calls regarding domestic animals, sheep and foxes, none of which are native to the ACT, and about which our volunteers are unable to do anything. Usually people who call are appreciative of the role our phone and transport volunteers play, however, occasionally there are those who feel we are not doing the job we are "paid to do." Some diplomatic explanations are sometimes necessary.

If the role of phone or transport appeals to you, Jen would love to have your assistance. You can volunteer for as little as one 4 hour phone shift each month, or be more available if you have the time and interest. Your most important qualities will be your ability to empathise with sometimes distressed members of the public and to stay calm. ACT Wildlife will provide all other training support for all new phone and transport

volunteers. What you get out of it will be having insights into the wonderful interactions of wildlife and the people who live in our beautiful bush capital and knowing that you have helped both. As with all volunteering there may be small costs to individuals, but those of us who volunteer in any capacity understand that this is part of the “job”.

Jen can be contacted for further information about these roles on actwildlifephone@gmail.com.

CREATURE FEATURE or HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FERAL AND NATIVE RATS AND MICE

Is not Bandicoot, is rat!!! (sorry Manuel of Fawly Towers for the misquote!)

From time to time members of the public catch a small rodent like creature or it is brought to them by the family cat or dog. They are concerned that they have inadvertently caught a native marsupial or native rat and ask us to identify the animal. It can be quite difficult but there are some basic differences that might make the identification easier.

	Tail length	ears	teeth	Pouch (female)	Testicles (male)	feet
Rat (black) (Feral)	Longer than body	pointed	Prominent top and bottom front incisors	none	Between tail and urogenital opening	Claws on all toes
Mouse	Longer than body		Prominent top and bottom front incisors	none	Between tail and urogenital opening	Claws on all toes
Bandicoot	Shorter than body			Backward facing	Between urogenital opening and belly	Longer middle toes on rear feet
antechinus	Same length as body		Cat like, small sharp No rodent like incisors	present	Between urogenital opening and belly	No nail on rear foot “thumb”
Bush rat (native)	Shorter than body	rounded				

Interesting links

This fascinating story from Clearwater Marine in Florida, home of Winter the dolphin. A glimpse into the value placed on wildlife as evidenced by the number of people involved in the release of this time seahorse.

<https://www.seewinter.com/cheeto-the-lucky-seahorse-released/>

Mange Project Update

The Mange Project is continuing on schedule.

The results are coming in for the first phase. Video footage is being analysed and we should be able to have definitive results soon.

One of the three study areas will be continuing until early next year.



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

AND NOW..... JUST BECAUSE SHE'S SO CUTE.....
LILLI AFTER HER BOTTLE



If you would like to contribute to the newsletter with caring stories or wildlife photos please contact Lindy
editor@actwildlife.net

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Our mailing address is: info@actwildlife.net
For newsletter contributions: editor@actwildlife.net

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