



# Newsletter



*Turtle in care enjoying dinner.  
Photo courtesy of Ingrid Singh*

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### President Report—Marg Peachey

Greetings from afar! I am taking a break and writing this from Broome, Western Australia. The birds in the desert areas are amazing, as is the landscape. I have seen so many different birds and photographed many of them. There is not a great deal of other wildlife, very few kangaroos and most of them are dead on the side of the road; a few emus scattered around but we saw most in Queensland just over the border from Bourke.

ACT Wildlife has achieved another milestone and gained Deductible Gift Recipient status with the tax department. This means that we can now issue receipts for donations that can be claimed back from the tax department (any donation over \$2). This, I hope, will encourage more donations.

We are actively looking for a venue, or office, so we can centralise animal intake. The ACT Government is helping us with this and committee members have been to check out a couple of places already. I sincerely hope somewhere will eventuate before too long.

In order to be able to continue caring for wildlife we have to report to the TAMS Licensing officer with our stats for the previous year. This was done in April and we are licensed for another year. We have now been in licensed for three years.

Thanks always to our volunteer carers, phone operators, transport drivers, trainers and the numerous people who help in other ways. Without you all ACT Wildlife would not exist.



*Can you guess these birds from their feathers?*

*Answer later in the newsletter.*



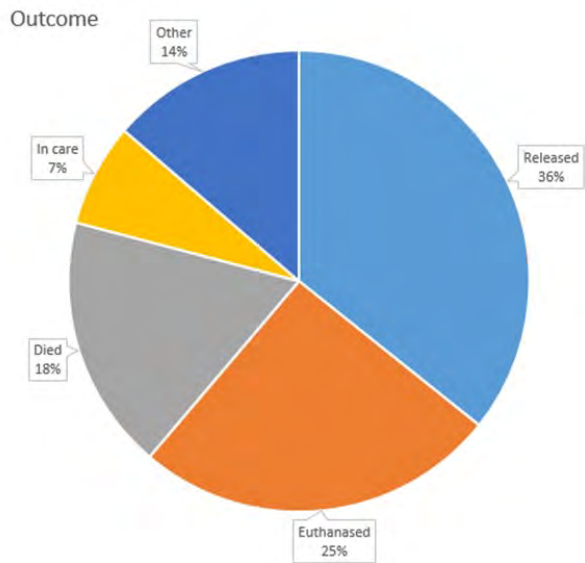
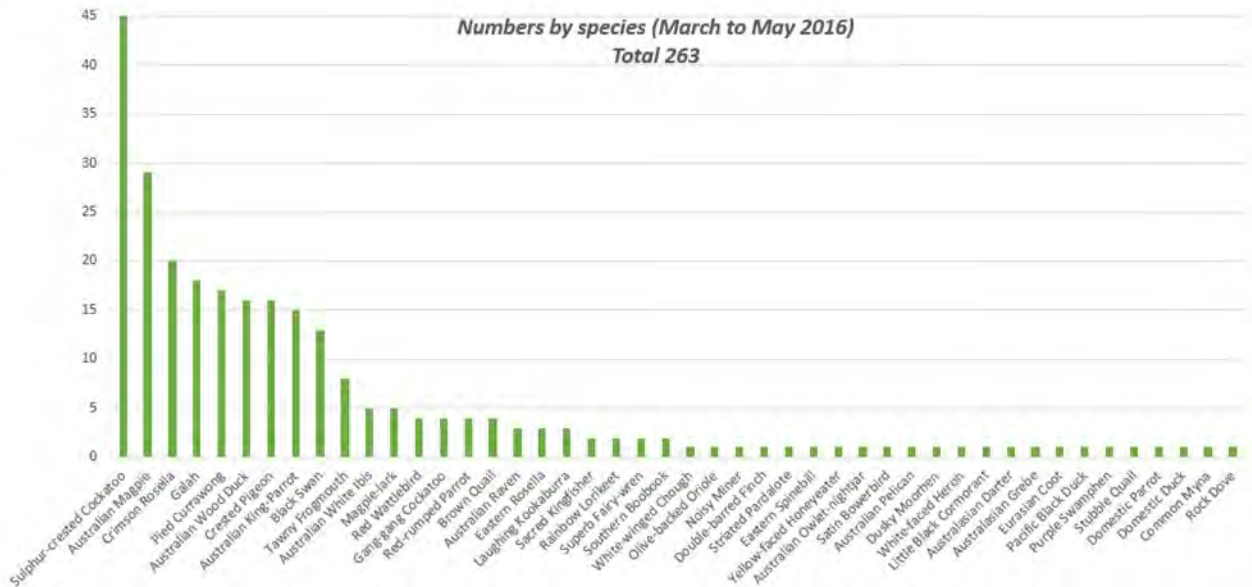
**ACT Wildlife  
Thanks our Sponsors!!**





## Bird Report—Kumiko Callaway

263 birds (46 species) came into care during March, April and May. Of which, 94 birds (36%) were successfully released. Thank you to all the carers and transport volunteers and vets for ongoing support and effort for our precious and beautiful native birds.



### Membership Renewal reminder

Members are reminded that subscriptions for those joining before 1/10/2015 are due on 1/1/2016, fees are: single and family \$20, associate \$50

Members joining between 1/10/2015 and 31/12/2015 receive membership to 31/12/2016.

Fees can be paid by bank transfer to:

ACTWildlife Inc

BSB 633 000

Account 151980604

Our reference; m'ship followed by surname.

All volunteers not yet members are urged to join for ease of communication, database and insurance purposes.

Membership applications can be located at <http://www.actwildlife.net/become-a-member.html>

## Reptile report—Ingrid Singh

Winter is here and so basically everything is quiet here at Che Reptile. If you are partial to drinking champagne or other celebratory habits, please raise your glass or do a little dance when you read this, to celebrate Canberra's recent major rain event happening in winter while the turtles are resting calmly at the bottom of their (now nice, clean and full) dams.

The bright side of the heavy rain happening now and not in summer is that in the warmer months, turtles use warm, rainy weather to migrate across busy roads where some of them always get run over by cars. At this time of year, they just stayed in bed and kept hibernating.

Thank you to the Williams and Varnes families for helping overwinter some of the turtles that are too injured or too small to hibernate!

Only one lizard was found washed into in the lake by the recent rain and it was rescued by a passing cyclist before it could sink.

No new microbats in so far for winter. If you do hear of any, remember that they need to come into care and get a good feed if they get disturbed, especially if their habitat is also removed or destroyed. This is because they may not have enough fat reserves to make it through winter if they use them up by being awake at the wrong time, and it is too cold for them to be outside in the night now.

Hope you are enjoying the peace of winter, especially if you had a busy season with the late autumn.

This month I've put in a special photo to thank our frog-carer Dot and our frog-carer Sharon (although I hope there are others among you quietly frog-watching), for teaching me about frogs! They tend to come to me because people group them in with reptiles but they are very special and different from any of the other wildlife. If you are interested in frog care please let Dot or myself know as every so often there is a frog who needs replacing rescue or care.

The frog in the photo is tiny, only about 1cm long. I think it is a male criminal par. insignifera. If you would like some disposable plastic forceps please let me know so I can pass them to you before spring. They were collected for us by Emma Kemp, who is looking out for the lizards even when she isn't looking after one! Happy Wildlife watching and doing!



### **A HUGE WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:**

*Allison Shannon*

*Anne Hastings*

*Ashley Donaldson*

*Cameron Wilson*

*Christine Haley*

*Cynthia Coppock*

*Gillian Carter*

*Hayley Roberts*

*Jesse Challen*

*Joyce Lawrence*

*Julie Mitchell*

*Kerry Hyde*

*Madelene Gardner*

*Mary-Lou Reid*

*Megn Armstrong*

*Michelle Tutt*

*Moira Turnbull*

*Nicole Stone*

*Scott Furman*

*Tara Munro*

*Tasha Skelton*

*Tom Hulse*

*Wynter Jonston*

## Group Outing to Mulligans Flat—Marg Peachey

Bird Group outing to Mulligans Flat – 13<sup>th</sup> April

Quite a few carers met at Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve for a wander to primarily look at birds.

We saw quite a few waterbirds on the dam. Included was Pink-eared Ducks and ducklings (quite a scoop), Eurasian coots, Pacific black ducks, Australasian Grebes, Wood ducks, Australian White Ibis, Hoary-headed grebe, and Grey teals and ducklings.

Thanks to Kumiko, our wonderful bird coordinator, for organising the outing. Anyone who is interested in attending should let Kumiko know and she will include you in the next invitation. It is a great way to meet and get to know wildlife carers and also learn about the birds of the ACT.



*Pink eared ducks and ducklings.*



*How many different species can you see in this photo?*

*Answer is later in the newsletter.*



### WANTED: MEDIA WRITER

*Are you good with words? Do you know someone who is? ACT Wildlife is calling for an enthusiastic member of ACT Wildlife to write articles for and organise interviews with Canberra's media. Community outreach and education is an important part of ACT Wildlife, and as our organisation grows, we would love to communicate with Canberra people about what's happening with their wildlife.*

*The opportunity is what you make it – be creative, be entertaining, show Canberra what lovely wildlife they live with and how they can look after it. You can write a series of columns, a one-off piece, whatever takes your interest.*

*Please contact the committee at [info@actwildlife.net](mailto:info@actwildlife.net) for more info.*

## Training —Alicia Ozanne

ACT Wildlife have had a great first half of the year with 9 training courses held so far. These have included

- Orientation
- Basic Bird & Possum
- Phone, Transport & Rescue

While we have had a good participation rate, I would still like to encourage anyone who would like to become a carer or even assist with supporting our phones or transport activities, to register for our upcoming training.

All training courses scheduled are listed on our website however if you have any questions, you can also email us at [training@actwildlife.net](mailto:training@actwildlife.net)

Thank you to our training support team and facilitators for their time and effort in running these sessions.

## SAVE THE DATE

Need more information -  
[www.actwildlife.net](http://www.actwildlife.net)

20th July—Phone and Transport Training

7th August—Orientation Training

21st August—Basic Bird Course

11th September—Advanced Bird Course

9th October—Reptile Training

19th October—Phone and Transport

Email [training@actwildlife.net](mailto:training@actwildlife.net) for more details.

### ***In the News - Click on the link to take you to the original article.***

*At the end of March 7 quolls escaped from the Mulligans Flat Sanctuary—<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/environment/animals/quolls-abscond-from-sanctuary-at-mulligans-flat-near-canberra-20160323-gnq08s.html> - while most of them have since been recaptured sightings of quolls can be reported to Access Canberra on 13 22 81.*

*The recent rain brought wet and wild weather to many parts of Australia. In Tasmania the floods have resulted in a mass of spiders trying to escape the high waters—<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/environment/animals/trees-cocooned-in-webs-as-ballooning-spiders-take-refuge-in-floodhit-tasmania-20160608-gpe8er.html>*

*Wombat Jack who is being cared for by ACT Wildlife member Lindy Butcher made it to the Sydney news—<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/baby-wombat-jack-nursed-back-to-health-by-act-wildlife-after-hit-by-car-20160323-gnpmhd.html>—his story can also be followed on our Facebook page.*

### **For injured wildlife in the ACT**

**Injured kangaroos and snakes - Canberra Connect - 13 22 81**

**All other wildlife - ACT Wildlife - 0432 300 033**

**View our website at [www.actwildlife.net](http://www.actwildlife.net)**

**or sign up on Facebook for regular stories and information.**



## Phone Roster—Paul Perusic

I have temporarily stepped into the role of Phone/Transport Coordinator whilst Marg is out enjoying this beautiful country. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me during this time.

Having been volunteering with animals for over 6 years now (5yrs with WIRES then moving to ACT and joining over a year ago), I had always been a part of the phone and rescue/transport but have never fulfilled the role of coordinator. It has been a great experience and one I am enjoying.

I was nervous and scared at the start of it, but I must admit, I think I stressed myself out too much and it wasn't actually that bad. Which got me thinking, a lot of other members are probably going through the same fears that I was having about doing the phones. New things are always nerve racking and can often take a lot to take the plunge and get the confidence to do it. Becoming a phone member is just the same. You have to answer calls from members of the public, Access Canberra, vets and there is a perceived pressure that you have to know it all and answer everyone's queries and respond to everyone there and then and be this big magical person at the end of the line that knows everything. This is completely wrong. If you have ever considered about becoming a phone member but feel you do not have enough experience, or are worried, then hopefully this will clear up a few concerns and we can get you to over come your fear.

1) Just because you answered the phone, it does not mean that you have to answer the questions. By taking the callers details and situation, you can then phone around and get the answer. Not only that, usually the person who is assisting you is happy to call the member of public themselves. As the phone coordinator, I am always available to assist my buddies on the phone and happy to help. I too will probably go "Oh gee! I have never had that before, I will need to call someone else also". There are always people to help you =) With time, comes experience. As time goes on, your requests for help will decrease

2) Restricted to times due to work and family? Don't worry! If you can only do one shift every fortnight weekend, that is one shift that our regular helpers can breathe a bit easy. The roster is very flexible and I am happy to tweek it and prod it and poke it to make sure it suits you where I can. The current shifts are 8am to 1pm, 1 pm to 5 pm and 5pm to 8pm. From 8pm to 8am, the phone is temporarily unoccupied and referred to Access Canberra. If you can only do part of a shift, eg 1-3, not 1-5 then do not worry, we can work with that. I can most certainly assure you, there will be someone who is out there thinking "oh I can only do 3-5 so I wont put my name down". But combined, you make a full shift.

3) I don't understand how it works? This is OK. Like everything, time will be your friend and eventually it will be second nature.

The roster is on a spreadsheet which is on Google Docs, which means, with the URL, anyone can access it and put their name in. I send out the URL to our phone members every week, but it is also available from Wildman. Once the spreadsheet is open, simply write your name in the field on the day and shift that you want. This is the same for those willing to do transports and rescues for Northside or Southside. It is very easy to complete. Days down the left, times / locations across the top. Everyone knows our rescue line 0432 300 033, but what people don't know is that this number does go to a physical phone. One of which is currently in my care, formerly Michelle Johnson had it for a very good while (doing an awesome job too might I add). This phone has an app on it which allows us to schedule call diverts to those who have said that they will do a shift. Which is why we can be so flexible and set you up for a shift whenever and work with you.

Once the phone is scheduled to divert to you, all and any calls in the time-frame scheduled will come in to your own mobile. Which is great because it keeps your personal mobile number private to the MOP.

BUT, like everything... there is always the paperwork. At the end of your shift (or as you go if you are lucky enough to sit in front of a computer) you must enter all the calls into our ACT Wildlife Database "Wildman". This is essential to our operations, as it records statistics, allows us to track an animal that has come into care. These show our organisations growth and many of times we have been able to use these statistics to show the awesome work we as a group have done. Once your calls are in Wildman and your shift is finished, that is it! Ready for next time. There is a Phone and Transport Course being held on 20th July, so if you have always wondered how it works, get a bit of training, and meet some other awesome volunteers, please email me Paul\_Perusic@yahoo.com.au and I am happy to start to set you up and get you going or answer any questions you might have.

I look forward to seeing a few new names on the roster :-)

## Member Profile—Ingrid Singh

### **What made you decide to become involved with ACT Wildlife?**

Back in 2005, my friend and I were driving in our neighbourhood and a magpie jumped out in front of us. We didn't hit him but we saw he wasn't walking right. I caught him up in my new pashmina (they were cool back then!) and took him to RSPCA. He had gangrene and they had to put him down. I wished someone could have helped him before he got that sick.

So rather than just remembering him every time I wore the (now stinky) pashmina, I threw it away, did the training course and learned what I could do to get little creatures like that to the vet where they could get help.

My family thinks I still have the pashmina...but I have something better.

### **What is your role within the group?**

I mostly do caring for reptiles and the occasional microbat. On Tuesday nights, I do the phone. So far tonight it hasn't rung...

Sometimes I deliver presentations about what we do to community groups. Sometimes I deliver reptile training.

I try to be encouraging to other carers because I have a lot of fails in all aspects of my life and this is something where the smallest thing you do can make a really positive difference, even if you are just making a little creature warm and comfortable for a while. That's a big thing on a day as cold as today.

### **What are your most memorable wildlife moments?**

This year there are 4:

1. When we released two 'homeless' turtles into Tuggeranong Creek, and the first one waited for his buddy to swim over to it before doing a little somersault in the sun and moving on. Sometimes everything is going to be alright.
2. Seeing the mormopterus bats skimming the tree tops up near their release site.
3. Watching Emma's little Arlo lizard find the perfect burrow under his boulder.
4. Finding out they had to close a conference room at work for two months because a kestrel had nested on the window ledge and hoping it was the one I released there last summer.

### **How do you like to spend your time when it is not helping wildlife?**

Living la vida Gotha, wearing black, and growing strange exotic fruits.

### **What would you like to be doing in 5 years?**

Eating the strange exotic fruit, of course!





## Looking for Turtle Carers—Ingrid Singh

Ever thought your lemon tree or roses needed a boost but couldn't find an eco-friendly fertiliser? Well, ACT Wildlife has your answer to a lovely green garden: turtle care!

Turtle care takes some effort to set up because you need to find a large old aquarium and test that it doesn't leak. The ideal size is 120cm by 60cm or larger, if you want to look after large adult turtles. Even when you are pretty sure about there are no leaks, you might want to put the tank in an area with no carpet just in case of spills or splashes...turtles can get very excited at feeding time. The weekly water change will give your turtle a refresh and if you pour the old water on your garden, I guarantee (yes, guarantee!) you will have the plumpest, richest citrus you have ever grown.

A turtle will often be in care for over 3 months as the most common injury for them is a shell fracture due to being run over by a car. So you will have plenty of time to learn about what it likes to eat and how to keep the temperature and lighting just right for it. This can be tricky in Canberra winter. We have to keep the turtle tank inside the house, where the air can be kept warm for the turtle, for all 24 hours of the day. When kept around 20 degrees celcius, your turtle will be actively eating and making that special 'garden water' that your garden will love.

Some of the vets in the ACT are getting very good at fixing turtle shells and so we expect more than ever will recover successfully in 2016! Recently RSPCA have had some great results using the techniques we learned from Wildcare to brace and mend turtle shells. Another lovely repair can be seen in the photo on the front page of this newsletter, which is the neatest job we've seen. Mr Tibbs was very badly hurt and had a broken tibia (leg) as well as deep shell fractures. Thanks to Small Creatures in Amaroo, you can see he is now eating again and on the path to recovery.

## Emu Research —Julia Ryeland

I am conducting research at Western Sydney University on the movement of emus across eastern Australia. As part of a larger study, I am trying to analysis variation in diet and genetics across their eastern range and to do so, I am needing to collect a large sample of emu feathers. I was wondering whether there was a possibility of being able to circulate the attached flyer amongst your members? If they are out in the field and come across roadkill or discarded feathers, if these could be posted to the university (see address on the flyer) this would greatly help our research. I am attempting to circulate the flyer as widely as possible, so as many members/contacts that you could forward this to, would be extremely helpful and much appreciated. If you could let me know whether this is a possibility, that would be fantastic. If you would like to discuss anything further, please don't hesitate to contact me (details below). Thank you for your time and help.

Julia Ryeland | PhD Candidate

**Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment**

P:0434 408 460

E: [julia.ryeland@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:julia.ryeland@westernsydney.edu.au)  
[westernsydney.edu.au/hie](http://westernsydney.edu.au/hie)



Visit [melbourne.awrc.org.au](http://melbourne.awrc.org.au) for further details.

## Recovery from Botulism—Kumiko Callaway

After some hot days, we were called out to rescue 2 injured Australian White Ibises at the shore of Lake Tuggeranong (which has an island used as their roosting site). One of them was already dead and the other one was struggling to stand with his wings open. He could not hold his head up, eyes were cloudy and he gasped for air. He seemed to have botulism and passed away within a couple of hours.

Botulism is a disease caused by toxin ingestion which is produced by the bacteria which is common in wetland environments. The outbreaks occur in summer and it is also spread by eating the maggots out of decayed

bodies with botulism. Usually, it is too late to cure them when they are found and brought



to care.

Ten days later, another Australian White Ibis with similar symptoms (unable to fly or stand and lying on his chest with his wings open) was found near a roosting site in Fadden. He seemed only a bit brighter in the eyes and was suspected of botulism. He was orally given antibiotics (amoxycillin) twice daily. During the first 2 days, he was lying down on his chest with wings open on the ground. He was given prawns, fish and water into his beak which he was ok to swallow slowly. His beak strength was very weak. However, he started to show a big improvement in the afternoon on the 3rd day. He started to hold his head up and sit on his ankles with his wings closed on his back for the first time. We caught some small fish (Gambusia/mosquito fish) and let them swim in a bucket in front of him. He started to put his beak into it and ate them all. By night time, he could stand up on his toes. Late on the 4th day, he perched high up and preened himself happily.

A few days later, he started to fly up and down, eat fish and prawns well out of the water and was very keen to go. He flew away beautifully, circled in the sky and perched high up on the top of a big pine tree. It was a wonderful rapid recovery.



*Answer from page 2 is: Crimson rosella and female Gang Gang cockatoo.*

*Answer from page 5 is 5.—Royal spoonbill, Little black cormorant, Pied cormorant, Corella, Intermediate egret*

## Fundraising—Heather Peachey

Can you assist with raising funds for ACT Wildlife by selling Cadbury chocolates?

It's easy, you simply purchase a variety box from one of our distributors, place a small sign stating costs and that it's raising money for ACT Wildlife and place it at your workplace or wherever you know chocolate loving people will be! Boxes cost \$50 each and payment is required at time of collection.



If you live on the Northside you can arrange to pick up the chocolates with Jessica Thomas on [jess.thomas@inet.net.au](mailto:jess.thomas@inet.net.au) or 0438 284 836.

Our Southside distributor position is vacant so in the meantime you can call me on 0407494680. If you're interested in being our southside distributor please let me know. It's easy! You order and store the chocolates and advertise through the newsletter. If you want to give me a call for further details please do.



A minimum of 50% of the profit from every bottle purchased goes to ACT Wildlife.

Visit <http://www.goodwillwine.com.au/charities/act-wildlife> for wine options.



*Last summer this beautiful blue tongue lizard was in our garden. How lucky we are to have such wildlife freely roaming our backyards in this urban environment although it sometimes does amaze me how they survive the cats, dogs and snail baits. It was a picture of health so we quickly wished it a happy and long life, putting it back exactly where it came from. Good luck little lizard!! - Barb Dobner*



**From the Editor—Barb Dobner**

Thanks to those who have contributed articles. Recently I had to attend to a Sulphur Crested Cockatoo nearby our home. We were about to go out when we noticed it on the ground, fluffed up in a neighbours garden. One of us quickly gathered a blanket and a cage to catch and contain it while the other knocked on the door of the property it was in so they would know what we were doing. Once contained we drove it straight to a vet as we knew it was not in a good way—extremely thin and fairly unresponsive. The property owner had tried and failed to catch it the day prior. She was concerned as the magpies were attacking it but was not sure what to do. Thankfully a vet at the Western Creek Veterinary Hospital was able to immediately attend to its suffering. Of course I did not take a photo. It is easy to forget when the primary concern is the animal however when it comes to newsletter time, photos and stories are much appreciated. Please don't hesitate to send your articles and photos through at any time and they will be kept until the next newsletter.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS**

**1st September 2016.**

Contributions can be emailed to [editor@actwildlife.net](mailto:editor@actwildlife.net)

**Membership Application**

ACT Wildlife welcomes new members. Each new member will be considered at the next committee meeting and there is no guarantee of acceptance. An applicant must read, accept and abide by the Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics, which covers the acceptable behaviour within the group and acceptable animal welfare code of practice. If you would like to become a member please fill out the form below and return to [info@actwildlife.net](mailto:info@actwildlife.net).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Suburb / Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ work phone: \_\_\_\_\_ mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: Members caring for wildlife must live in the ACT. I wish to be a:

- Member \$20 (an active volunteer with ACT Wildlife, individual or family)
- Associate \$50 (members who are supporters or live in other States)

I wish to donate \$..... Total \$.....

- I am, or have been a carer. Which carer organisation? ..... When?.....
- I wish to train to become a carer  I wish to volunteer in other capacities

I have / have not attended an orientation / training day run by ACT Wildlife.  
 I have read the Carers Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics and agree to act in accordance with the Codes  
 Signature: ..... Date: .....

**Bank Details:** ACT Wildlife Inc. BSB: 633-000 a/c # 151980604  
 Reference for deposit: **subs - [your surname]** and please email [treasurer@actwildlife.net](mailto:treasurer@actwildlife.net)

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Office Use Only    New member accepted    Month    Year

Member has accepted Codes     Member has completed orientation training



# Pin Up Page

Position	Name	Phone	Email
<b>Patron</b>			
	Ian Fraser		
President	Marg Peachey	0450 961 530	info@actwildlife.net
Vice President	Martin Lind	0447 870 448	waterwatch@sactcg.org.au
Secretary	Dee Harmer	0400 780 999	<a href="mailto:deeharmer@iinet.net.au">deeharmer@iinet.net.au</a>
Treasurer	Alicia Ozanne	0403 835 663	<a href="mailto:alicia3@live.com.au">alicia3@live.com.au</a>
Public Officer	Jim Peachey	0403 846 629	<a href="mailto:peachey045@gmail.com">peachey045@gmail.com</a>
Training Officer	Alicia Ozanne	0403 835 663	training@actwildlife.net
<b>Species Coordinators</b>			
Reptiles and Microbats	Ingrid Singh	0414 540 925	icingdarkthings@gmail.com
Birds	Kumiko Callaway		birdcoordinator@actwildlife.net
Possums	Cheryle Le Fevre	0401 587 844	
Daytime contacts—possums	Michelle Johnson	0439 816 922	
Flying foxes, wombat and wallaby	Kirstie Hawkins	6231 3370	kirstiesean@bigpond.com
Phone, rescue, transport	Paul Perusic	0402 464 303	info@actwildlife.net
Assets and shop	Mandy Conway	6259 2224	mandyconwy@gmail.com
<b>Food Sales:</b>			
Colin Calderwood (Weston)		0409 444 011	colinc@grapevine.com.au
Everything but possum supplies			
Mandy Conway (Evatt)		6259 2224	mandyconwy@gmail.com
Andrew Caldwell (Isabella Plains)		6292 6417	
Sewing	Jennifer Brian		jenniferbrian@gmail.com
Aviaries and woodwork	Vacant		
Fundraising and sponsorship	Heather Peachey	0407 494 680	fundingsupport@actwildlife.net
Education, Public Relations and Events	Emily Birks	0403 878 311	publicrelations@actwildlife.net
Newsletter	Barb Dobner	0402 020 960	editor@actwildlife.net