



Newsletter



Arlo is a good example of where we provided twice daily cleaning of injuries and a handfed liquid diet and he was able too make a full recovery. This is really a great example of the difference our care can make as he would surely have died without care.

Photo courtesy of Emma Kemp

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President Report—Marg Peachey

2015 was a challenging one with huge expansion in the number of phone calls and animals coming into care. This increase is roughly 250%. Essentially our number of carers has only risen 30%. However, with great volunteers helping with the phone, transport of animals, sewing, moving aviaries, making possum and hospital boxes, etc we have achieved a great deal and everyone should be very proud of all you have done. Every volunteer is really valued and we cannot operate without him or her.

We conducted 20 training courses in 2015 with over 240 people attending. It has been a great investment in time and we now have 75 households that are qualified to care for our wildlife. Thanks to the trainers, Martin and Dorothy, Mandy and Ingrid who helped me get through the year. We had a few hiccups along the way with some good carers leaving or taking breaks for various reasons. Throughout the Christmas period we had difficulties filling the phone roster and TAMS helped us out. We have a fantastic relationship with the TAMS wildlife rangers and we can ask them to help us out and vice versa, the rangers sometimes cannot do some rescues or pickups and so they ask us. We have not been able to maintain the 24 hour phone and so the decision was made to temporarily suspend it from 8pm to 8am, leaving a comprehensive message on the phone. 2016, I hope, will prove to be a year of expanding partnerships in the community, training more volunteers and meeting the expectations of the Canberra population in relation to wildlife care. We envisage, in the not too distant future, having our own premises and part time staff including a vet. We can dream about it anyway! ACT Wildlife still has some way to go to become a robust organization within the community.

I would like to thank all members and supporters: in particular the wonderful committee that has met every month since our inception—Martin Lind, Dorothy Brown, Jim Peachey, Heather Peachey, Denise Kay, Agnes Mesple, Emily Birks, Judy Tett, Megan Wyllie, Kristy Price and Barb Dobner. Judy and Denise have stepped down from the committee following the AGM this month. Thank you to both for your hard work since “the beginning”. Jim is having a well-earned rest from Treasurer’s duties after having set the books up originally and passing the job to Alicia Ozanne this year. We also welcome Dee Harmer who is our new Secretary.

To our phone and transport volunteers are “the face of ACT Wildlife”; our species coordinators who see that animals are well placed with carers and give the committee reports every month.

Our core business is rehabilitation of the animals we receive into care so without our carers we would not have an organization. Thanks to you all out there, unseen in your homes doing a wonderful job.

Lions Youth Haven have allowed us to use their premises for our training and volunteer BBQs and the ACT Southern Catchment Group has given us use of meeting rooms, a photocopier, laminator and stationery storage. Thanks.



ACT Wildlife
Thanks our Sponsors!!



497 birds (54 species) came into care during December, January and February. Of which, 189 birds (38%) were successfully released. Orphaned bird season is nearly coming to end which makes the number to come into care started to slow down. Thank you to all the carers and transport volunteers and vets for ongoing support and effort for our precious and beautiful native birds.



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

Reptile report—Ingrid Singh

This is a good chance to thank all of you who had an interest in reptiles or bats during 2015! These ugly little creatures are not for everyone, so some of you showed a lot of courage to have a go at something outside your comfort. I hope you had a great adventure, whether it turned out to be a crazy 'Why am I putting my hand into this dark hole on the ground again?' rescue or a gentle stroll to the edge of a lake to free a turtle.

Some of you are still wanting to set up, and so I've filled my carport with cabinets to convert into lizard houses for our gear pool. I learned that all projects take heaps longer than expected when attempted by a giant baby (me) but that the small ones are the fastest because you can use power tools in your living room when necessary. So I made a lot of bat boxes and am still doing the cabinets...some of you have made your own in the meantime, so you will know a lot about good, safe animal housing now!

So with lizards and turtles I probably learned the thing that you bird people know already: dogs and cats might be great indoor pets, but they need close supervision outdoors or they can really harm wildlife. At least half the injured lizards were attacked by dogs...as for the rest there is a dad joke that explains it all:

Q. Why did the chicken cross the road?

A. A turtle was chasing him. It didn't catch him though...

On the phone I had many rewarding times helping people work through sometimes distressing situations. It reminded me that we can't always deliver a good outcome but if we give a person some knowledge and control in a frightening situation, they feel very powerful afterward. They know they met a big challenge with bravery and action, and they will pass their new skills on to the people around them. Some of the animals rescued through the phone seemed pretty happy about that, too.



*Here is the dragon from a previous newsletter, ready for launch!
You can see it is a lot fatter and well healed from its' injuries.*

A HUGE WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Alex Knowles

Alexandria McAlpine

Annette Braagaard

Belle Concannon

Deborah Hawke

Frances Verrier & Family

Geri Hutchison

Gillian Carter

Kathy Hughes

Kiera O'Halloran

Lilly Moore

Matthew Kent

Megan Armstrong

Melissa Kenney

Natasha Jones

Nicole Stone

Sandi Plummer

Sarah Beach

Stephen McDonald

Tess Keane

Possum Note—Sharon Koh

To all possum carers -

Can everyone please remember to:

1. enter details into Wildman AS SOON AS you receive a possum.
2. contact Cheryle (0401 587 844) or Michelle (0439 816 922) to ensure that the possum goes to an appropriate person for care.

DO NOT just take a possum into care without letting anyone know. We need to keep track of where possums are (for buddying purposes and to make sure people don't get overloaded), and to ensure that people have the appropriate training and equipment to meet the individuals possum's needs.

The advantages of pairing animal species in care—Marg Peachey

Bird 2966. WildMan record on arrival: “800g injuries: grazed wrist, feathers scraped from one side of chest, foot badly swollen and bleeding. All RHS”. This is a good weight for a cockatoo. Its right foot was really badly swollen and bleeding. I took it to the Weston Creek Vet where Doris examined it and prescribed antibiotics for the foot, which subsequently healed. The bird kept moving around the aviary by climbing around the mesh, continually exasperating the foot which bled. The bird never attempted to fly.

I was thinking that perhaps it was an escaped tame bird but I was willing to try a release. There I was chasing the cockatoo around a park to get it to fly and it just waddled around. Caught it again and back into the aviary.

Then a couple of weeks later I received another cockatoo that had a bruised wing. I put it into the aviary and IMMEDIATELY the first one started to fly! How amazing!

But also how important is it for a flock bird to be with others.

Very soon they will be released together.



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 for more info.

Training—Alicia Donohoe

Following is information on the Rescue Course to be held on March 20th. Registration from 8.30, course 9 - 5. Bring own lunch and food to share for morning/afternoon tea.

Presenter is Diane Hinton from Wildcare. She will be covering:

- *a standard approach to every rescue (e.g. rules, insurance, rescuers ability, negligence),
- *decision factors about what you do with the animal after a rescue,
- *common animals rescued - identification and why that knowledge is important,
- *safety considerations (e.g. ladder usage, using mops to help),
- *how to rescue & handle birds, lizards, possums, echidnas, mac & wombat pouch young,
- *transport (i.e. healthy/injured, appropriate temperature, suitable carrier, dark & quiet, where to take it to),
- *basic assessment,
- *rescue first aid (basic first aid that can be done while getting it to someone who can help).

We have already kicked off a number of training sessions with a great support of attendance so far in the following:

Orientation, Basic Bird, Phone & Transport

I 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. We are always in need of volunteers for various activities and all training courses scheduled are listed on our website.

If you have any questions or feedback regarding our training, please contact me at training@actwildlife.net.

SAVE THE DATE

Need more information -
www.actwildlife.net

20th March—Rescue Training

3rd April —Orientation Training

10th April—Possum Training

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 for more details.

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

or sign up on Facebook for regular stories and information.

Member Profile—Sharon Koh

What made you decide to become involved with ACT Wildlife?

I love animals and believe humans have a responsibility to help wildlife as we cause so much harm to their habitat and directly through feral animals and roadkill. I was involved with RSPCA for a short while before ACT Wildlife.

What is your role within the group?

I'm a possum carer and also help with transport.

What are your most memorable wildlife moments?

Feeding small baby possums with a bottle.

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

Wildlife surveys, animal rights campaigning, bushwalks, movies, reading, art exhibitions.

What would you like to be doing in 5 years?

On ground wildlife conservation, currently studying Environmental Management part-time.



1-4 August 2016, early bird bookings are being taken now. Go to melbourne.awrc.org.au

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

Members may have noticed Eastern Grey Kangaroos in Western Park wearing ear tags and collars—this article explains the study that is being conducted on these animals into a fertility drug—<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-15/why-do-kangaroos-in-weston-park-have-collars-and-ear-tags3f/7162698> . This article shows how individuals can make a difference as one cattle mans dying wishes helps to protect the endangered Nailtail wallaby in Queensland—<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-07/nailtail-wallaby-protected-by-queensland-mans-dying-wish/7144076> The next Wildlife Conference dates and details have been announced. Visit <http://melbourne.awrc.org.au/> for more details.

Cooties—Ingrid Singh

It's late summer and everything is flourishing after the burst of rain we had in January. Everything...

So with the lovely green leaves on our lovely Canberra trees, we also see the growth of much tinier things. Some of you will already have guessed I'm talking about mites, lice, fleas and other parasites. They love the humid warm conditions and the abundance of animal hosts to carry them from place to place.

The tiny size of these creatures means that the first we know of them can be when they bite us. So we notice something is wrong when we get a tiny, one-off itch (from a lizard mite), a furious scratching (from the cat mites that can live on bats) or even an allergic reaction if you are unlucky enough to be sensitive to these pests. By that time, the pests can have drained a lot of blood from a small creature that is already sick or injured. If you notice pests on an animal in your care, act quickly to get rid of them.

Just like with children, sometimes an animal will get a parasite. They usually hitch a ride on the animal when it is brought in from the wild. It's not your fault when something nasty comes in with an animal but it is your responsibility to check and act quickly once you notice there is a problem. There are a couple of ways to reduce the risk of things going out of control:

1. Quarantine. Let the animal spend time in a separate and easy to clean enclosure when it first comes in. Most of you will do this as a matter of good practice anyway, to stop the spread of disease or to keep a messy wound from being made worse by cagemates. It can be very tempting to put cute furry animals together immediately for the benefit of companionship. Consider the possible impact of a pest on the animals you might expose. Consider carefully whether you want to clean all your animals and enclosures or just one! In situations where wild animals can actually make physical contact with your care animals, regular inspection can help to keep on top of unwanted aviary visitors.
2. Clean In Between. Wash your hands between animals, especially new ones. Give your enclosures a really good scrub and clean in between occupants. That way you will remove any unwanted 'passengers' before a new animal arrives in the enclosure. Remember that mites especially are very tiny and can hide in the smallest crevices, often in corners, cracks and around water bowls. If you are not sure what mites look like, use a magnifying glass to look at that 'moving dirt' you see on a lizard. On a bird lice can look like small rice.
3. Be mean. If you have a parasite problem, make sure you are using something that actually works for the thing you are trying to kill. An antibacterial product won't work on an insect that is vulnerable to pyrethrins unless you accidentally drown it. You can be mean and green if you want by using natural deterrent products in your cleaning (like a tea tree and vinegar wipe) but remember that some natural products are just as strong as the synthetic ones, so follow the instructions for use carefully. For lizards, an occasional spritz of oil helps to smother any baby mites, but for a persistent mite problem a full enclosure clean is a must. If the animal that you've found pests on is very sick, it might be a good idea to ask a vet for help, because some pest treatments can only be used on healthy animals.

Hopefully the steps above will be useful to you deal with the animals in your care and make sure your gear is not going to spread pests around to other animals and their carers. Don't be daunted - helping an animal to stop being itchy is one of the most satisfying things you can do!

Happy inspecting and cleaning.

Focus on Bats—Heather Peachey

It's bat season again! In Canberra we generally see an increase of bats between September and March when the weather is warm. This year we expect a similar number of bats to come into care as we did in 2015. This is only speculation and is based on the number of flying foxes currently settling in Commonwealth Park.

Did you know that flying foxes migrate over a national scale? So depending on the fruit season, weather and habitat availability over their distribution will determine where the Bats choose to settle. If we are caring for any injured flying foxes its best they are released before the main group migrates further north for warmer weather.

Unlike flying foxes Microbats stay in the Canberra region and torpor during winter. If they are woken up from their torpor their bodies unfortunately don't have enough energy to go back into torpor, so they must be kept awake until the weather is warm again. This requires housing and feeding over the duration of the winter period.



This microbat required care after becoming dehydrated when it was unable to get out of a bucket of soot it fell into.



This flying fox suffered irreparable damage to its wings from becoming entangled in a barbed wire fence.

Australian Bat Lyssavirus and Rabies

Australia is one of a growing number of countries in the world where the animal population is free from rabies. The Australian Bat Lyssavirus, closely related to Rabies, is known to infect all four species of flying foxes (fruit bats) in Australia and at least seven species of the Microbats. Australia's ongoing serological testing and virus studies suggest that this lyssavirus is widely distributed in Australia, and is therefore assumed that all Australian bats have the potential to carry and transmit the virus.

There is no evidence that Lyssaviruses in bats can establish and spread among terrestrial animals, although isolated cases in humans may occur on rare occasion. This virus is only transmitted by bites and scratches.

If you are scratched or bitten cleansing of the wound with soap and water is the single most effective measure to reduce the transmission of the classic rabies virus. Seek medical advice as soon as possible.

Caring for Bats in the ACT

Canberra has an amazing number of Microbats in the region and Flying Foxes who visit. To date ACT Wildlife has cared for 9 species of Microbats and 3 species of Flying Foxes.

The main reasons bats come into care is they are caught in fruit nets or barbed wire, attacked by cats, found on the ground or poisoned. But there is a large percentage of bats that come into care where the cause of injury is not known.

If you'd like to care for injured bats you'll need to be vaccinated with the Rabies vaccine. The vaccine will protect you from Australian Bat Lyssavirus but unfortunately this is expensive and, for now, you will have to bear the cost.

Message to Take Home

DO NOT TO TOUCH ANY BAT. This reduces the risk of being bitten or scratched and being exposed to the Australian Bat Lyssavirus. If you see a bat, big or small, call us at ACT Wildlife, and we can send a vaccinated rescuer.

Other information of interest

Bat friendly fruit nets and how to erect them, visit <http://www.actwildlife.net/resources.html>

Rabies and Lyssarivrus visit <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/disease-information-advice/rabies-australian-bat-lyssavirus>

Did you know we keep in touch with other wildlife groups? In November 2014 ACT Wildlife responded to help from the Northern NSW and Sydney Wildlife groups to raise young Black flying foxes, who were affected by the extreme heat event in Casino, NSW. We had capacity to care for 15 Black and Grey Headed flying foxes out of the 500 who were affected. The bats were in care for 2 months until they were weaned from milk and started eating fruit. They were taken to the Crèche



Some of the 5000 flying foxes that died during the extreme heat event in Casino. Photo courtesy

Fractures—Tania Duratovic

A fracture is a break which is usually a bone but may also involve cartilage. Fractures may also be associated with dislocations &/or ligamentous rupture. There are infinite possibilities in regards to the type of fracture & different implications for each individual fracture, each species, age, season, environment etc. Generally there is some haemorrhage & swelling involved. Damage to the sensitive parts of the bone causes pain. The affected area will be tender to touch & the patient will protect it.

There is much a carer can do initially in the way of first aid which will aid the patient's outcome. Firstly, as with any patient (human or animal), one attends to life threatening issues regarding airways & breathing. Then stop the bleeding. Then deal with the pain.

Start with stabilising the fracture with a splint. Any movement of the fracture site is painful & should be avoided. A splint will not only prevent further damage to the injury, but will also go a long way to providing some pain relief. They will, of course, need additional pain relief. Not everyone has access to drugs like Tramadol, but everyone can buy Painstop Daytime (oral liquid) at a chemist. This can be safely given to mammals (not birds or reptiles) at a dose rate of 10mg per kg of body weight twice daily (check the concentration as it comes in different forms. And don't use 'Nighttime').

When applying the splint, ensure there is adequate padding beneath the splint, particularly over bony prominences like ankles. Make sure that the padding covers the entire area & the splint goes all the way from the joint below to the joint above to avoid the bone fragments moving. You can use so many things for splinting (at least till the animal gets to a vet). In small creatures like birds, cotton buds often make good splints. Make sure circulation is not compromised. Remember that the injury beneath the splint is likely to swell from inflammation (this is normal) and make allowances for that.

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@iinet.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. A snapshot of wine available is shown below. Visit <http://www.goodwillwine.com.au/charities/act-wildlife> for many more options.



Sauvignon Blanc 2014 \$15.00 /bottle
\$180.00 /case

Coonawarra, SV - Terra Rossa Strip 2014

This is a graceful wine of medium weight and serious complexity with soft linear acid. RRP \$19.00 ... more

12 ▼ Buy

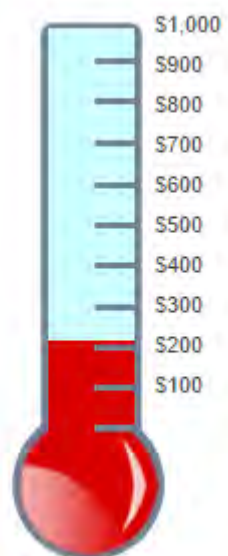


Sauvignon Blanc 2013 \$14.00 /bottle
\$168.00 /case

Yarra Valley VIC, SV - Healesville 2013

Subtle white florals, gooseberry and grapefruit blossom delicately layered within a beautifully textured wine. (Vegan) RRP \$20.00 ... more information, reviews and media

12 ▼ Buy



Funds raised to date.

From the Editor—Barb Dobner

Thanks to those who have contributed articles. We would love to hear more about your rescue stories including photos. What animals are rescued out there? What was the outcome? What did you learn from the experience? What would you do differently? Do you have a photo? (Not taken while the animal was suffering of course.) No need to wait until the next deadline—send your story through now and it will go into the next newsletter.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS 1st June 2016.

Contributions can be emailed to editor@actwildlife.net

Driving home in the Northern Rivers I found this bird in the middle of the road unable to stand. I picked it up, took it home and did a tick search—the most common cause of paralysis up north but found nothing. No injuries either. After some investigation and consultation with the bird coordinator it was discovered it was a Grebe. This type of bird is unable to stand on its legs on land but can swim in water. A test swim proved this to be correct. The bird must have been washed onto the road with recent rains then been unable to get off when the water flushed away. It was successfully released into a creek near to where it was found and I learnt something new about our amazing wildlife.



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.

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

Office Use Only New member accepted Month Year

Member has accepted Codes ☐ Member has completed orientation training ☐



Pin Up Page

Position	Name	Phone	Email
Patron	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	deeharmer@iinet.net.au
Treasurer	Alicia Ozanne	0403 835 663	alicia3@live.com.au
Public Officer	Jim Peachey	0403 846 629	peachey045@gmail.com
Training Officer	Alicia Ozanne	0403 835 663	training@actwildlife.net
Species Coordinators			
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	Vacant		
Assets and shop	Mandy Conway	6259 2224	mandycnwy@gmail.com
Food Sales:			
Colin Calderwood (Weston)		0409 444 011	colinc@grapevine.com.au
Everything but possum supplies			
Mandy Conway (Evatt)		6259 2224	mandycnwy@gmail.com
Andrew Caldwell (Isabella Plains)		6292 6417	
Sewing	Jennifer Brian		jenniferfbrian@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