



A note from the President

Spring has sprung and we are receiving orphaned birds and injured reptiles. The intake of wallabies and wombats has not had a break over winter and at the moment we have 7 wombats and 4 wallabies.

In just under four years our wonderful phone volunteers have taken 20,000 calls.

Thanks to our generous donors, without your support we would not be viable and your money allows us to care for the many native animals that are compromised predominantly by the actions and inactions of people.

Marg Peachey



Thank you to the **National Zoo and Aquarium** for your generous donation of \$5000 to ACT Wildlife.

Richard Tindale and Shelley Russell accept a certificate of thanks from Lindy and Marg.

Thanks also to the **Belconnen Rotary Club** for their donation of \$1000. It is this kind of donation that enables ACT Wildlife to support carers by fully subsidising specialist Wombaroo rearing foods for all species.

We also thank the many **donors** who donate smaller, but equally important, dollars.

Volunteering ACT Expo

Denise, Serena, Kate, Maddie, Gail, Kim and Grace, and Marg spent the day on Tuesday 19th Sept at the Southern Cross Club in Woden. We talked to many people about ACT Wildlife and how they can help.

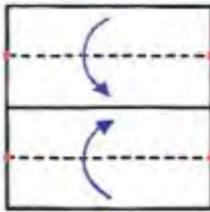
On the whole it was a very successful day.



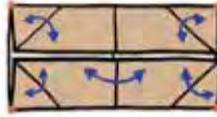
One for the kids - big and little.

(and if it seems that there is a lot of wombat stuff in the newsletter, that's what happens when you let the Wombat coordinator /Wombat Mange Project coordinator take on putting together the newsletter!)

F.W.'s Origami Wombat



Crease the paper along the middle. Fold the top and bottom edges in to meet the crease.



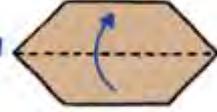
Crease this shape up the middle. Fold all the corners over creasing them, and then unfold them again.



Bring the corners down while folding where I've made dotted lines. This will create four new points that meet in the middle.



Flip this shape over so that you are looking at the smooth side.



Fold the shape along the middle so that you bring the bottom edge up to meet the top edge.



This is the body of the wombat. Now it's time to give it some legs!



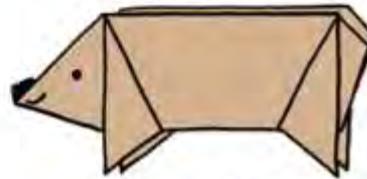
Fold the triangles that meet in the middle down so that they now extend down past the bottom of the body.



On one end of the wombat fold the point up for the nose. On the other end fold the point in.



Now fold the nose over one more time. Then use the marker to color it in and to add eyes and a mouth.



He's almost as cute as the real thing!



10th Bird Carers Forum 17 June 2017 at Botanical Gardens

Heavy cloud cover greeted our group on Saturday morning for our early winter ramble through the Botanical Gardens.

It was damp and quiet as we ambled upward with eyes and ears peeled.

Emi & Ryu were the first to spot the New England Honeyeaters, Ryu heard a tree creeper but we didn't see it.

As the morning warmed a few more birds emerged , many Eastern Spinebills , Currawongs , Kookaburras , Blue Wrens , Crimson Rosellas and a first for me the a White-browed Scrubwren. Emi got a great photo of the Bassian Thrush. Ryu counted 25 different species in total. Then there was gorgeous Swamp Wallabies lurking in the undergrowth.

The gardens are absolutely wonderful as always, some of the flowering plants are superb, the Stuart Pea is a delight to see in the desert garden. Sadly the rainforest garden was closed off, I heard that they are going to construct a tree house in the rainforest garden.

The lovely morning ramble finished at about 11am with a welcome cup of tea

and bikkies.

Thank you Kumiko for arranging the excursion.

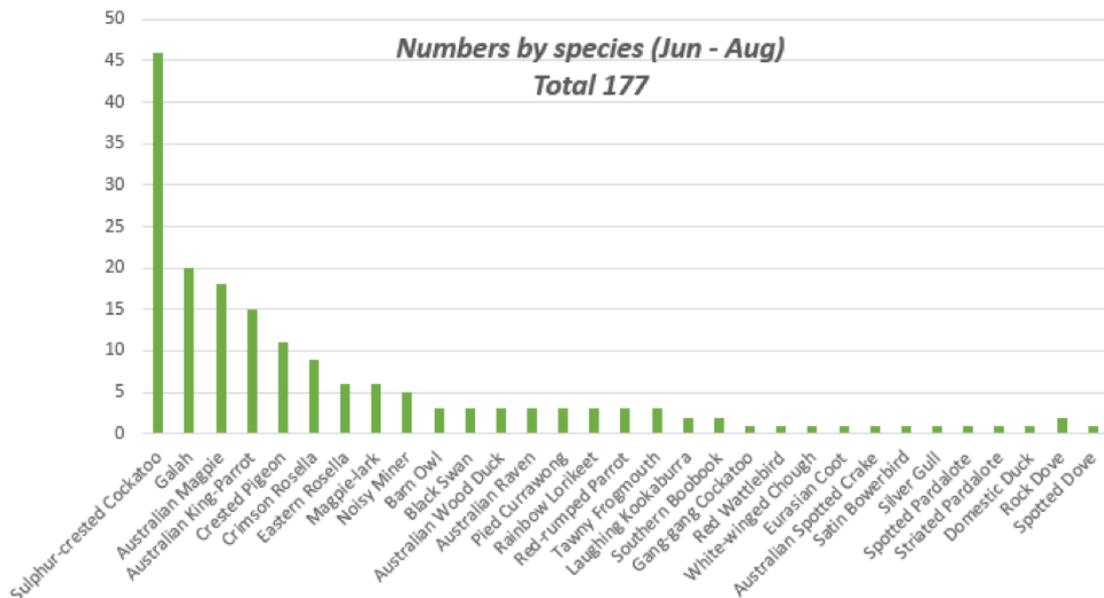
Denise

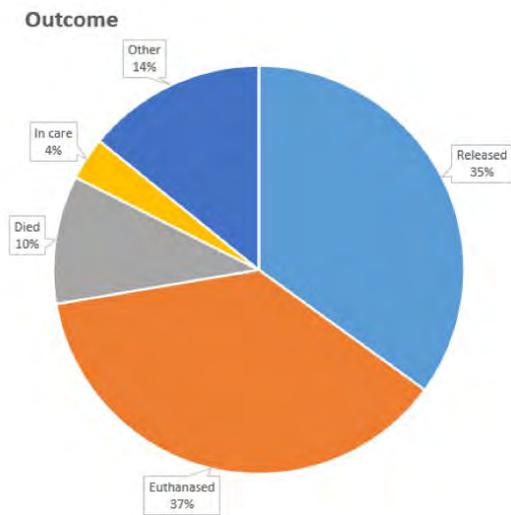
Bird report (June to August 2017)

By Kumiko Callaway & Jennette Finlayson

177 birds (31 species) came into care during June, July and August. The number of birds decreased by half from the last 3 months. It is also $\frac{3}{4}$ of the same quarter last year. 62 birds (35%) were successfully released. Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Galahs were the top 2 species in this quarter followed by Australian Magpies, Australian King-Parrots and Crested Pigeons.

The images below are the graphic representations of the quarterly figures and a female Red Rumped Parrot attacked by a cat. Bleeding wound underwing. After a course of antibiotics and treatment on wound, she fully recovered and was released back to her home.





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

WILDLIFE CARE ITS ALL ABOUT TEAMWORK

[Its all about teamwork](#) - click

Recovery of a Barn Owl

Kumiko Callaway

On a cold winter night in late July, we received a call from Gungahlin Vet about a Barn Owl. He had been attacked by other birds and had ear trauma with a fragment within. Radiographs were taken and showed no skull fracture. He was very lethargic, unresponsive, with closed eyes, and sat on his ankles.

Prognosis was poor, but the vet wished to give it a go.

Jen, a dedicated carer of ours, picked him up. By the look of his poor state of unresponsiveness, he could have passed away overnight. All we could do at that point was let him have rest in a safe, warm, quiet and comfortable place. He fortunately survived the first night but was still unresponsive. We contacted Kippax Vet for an appointment with Dr Sandy Hume who is an avian vet in Canberra. Although he was booked out throughout the day, he kindly squeezed in an appointment. He assessed the Barn Owl and gave subcutaneous fluids and also taught Jen how to carry out this method of injection. He needed another subcut after 24 hours. She received the necessary equipment from him. He said that the prognosis was poor, we cannot save all – which shows that the chance of survival of this owl was slim. However, we could try our best and hope that we could support and help his fight for his life. Only time could tell.

On Day 3, eyes opened for the first time. There was still a long way to go, but it was a positive sign. Seeing a slight and steady improvement, no matter how small, is wonderful. Jen successfully carried out the subcut injection. At night, he could swallow the first small soft piece of mouse to start off with and he ended up eating most of the mouse.

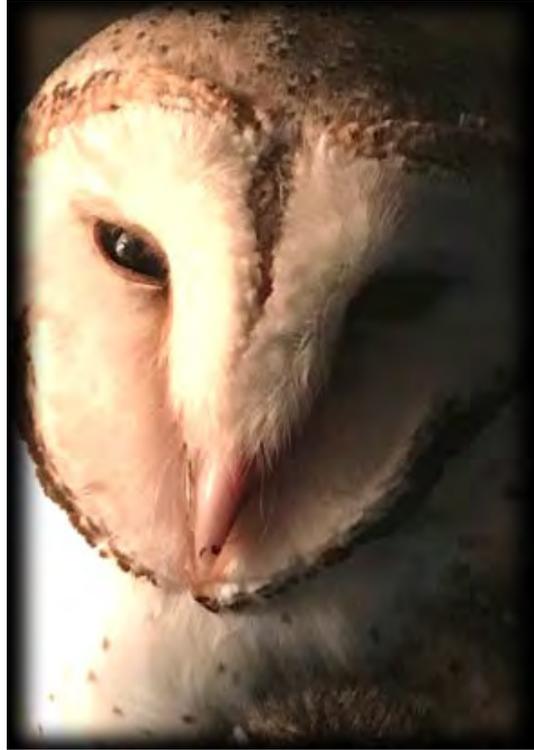
On Day 4, he was well enough to stand up on his feet. Jen had been in contact with Colin who is also one of our carers and has experience with raptors and owls, for advice. He visited her on Day 5 and was happy with the recovery process of the owl. He suggested to gradually enlarge the pieces of mice – from half size to whole. Force feeding still needed to be continued for another week or so.

On Day 15, he finally started to eat on his own. He continued to get brighter and stronger every day and started to show that he would like to get out of the cage. Jen organised Colin to pick him up so he could go into his purpose built aviary before release. Colin picked him up on Day 19. He was successfully released a week later with another Barn Owl which had previously come into care with minor concussion.

For any bird, whether it is a Barn Owl or a Galah, giving time, observing closely, and taking necessary actions promptly and calmly at the right time is the key to recovery. Teamwork between the bird, carer and supporters (vets and carers with experience) is also a very important element for success. I would like to give sincere appreciation to Jen as his main carer who took on this responsibility, and Colin for his warm support, advice and care before release, as well as Gungahlin Vet and Dr Sandy Hume at Kippax Vet with their professional veterinary help. It is wonderful to see this beautiful bird recovered from near death, back to the majestic owl he is, healthy and strong, able to fly free in the wild once more.

The photos below show the Barn Owl early in his recovery and shortly before

release.



Baby Wombat Josephine progress report

https://youtu.be/ryaOo_4vImU



Australian Raven family

Just goes to show how important it is to educate members of the public.

I had a call from a lady about an injured, non-flying raven in her back yard. I asked the usual questions - "why do you think it is injured, does it have a tail, does it have pale blue eyes, are the wings sitting properly against the body" and she replied "it looks like an adult". So I asked if she could take it to Weston Creek Vet.

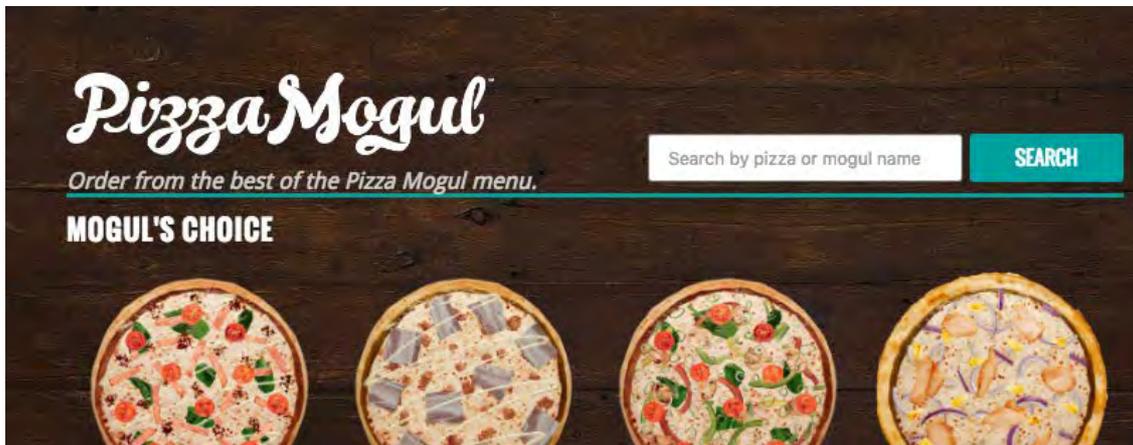
Next morning I received another call from the same person. She said there were two more injured ravens in the back yard and a couple more sitting on a branch above. Ahaa!

I retrieved the raven from the vet and went to the house in Mawson. And yes, they were fledglings, hopping around and trying out their wings. I added the 'stolen' fledgling and he quickly joined the others.

A great opportunity for a bit of education..... done!

sorry about the phone photo

Marg



[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 COORDINATOR

Paula Edmondson is our new sewing coordinator and 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.

If you would like to join this group and enjoy social sewing please call

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 chocoholics at your workplace or interest group.

ADD RECENT UPDATE

Paula on 0422772652 or email her at peachypaulie@hotmail.com

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

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 **\$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!



Bunnings BBQ

Thanks to the many ACT Wildlife team helpers at the BBQ at Belconnen Bunnings.

To sum up:

1,080 sausages (45 x24pks) and 25kg of onions were cooked, which were placed onto 60 loaves of bread!!!

What a great effort. Thanks to the helpers, John, Sara, Michael, Mandy, Borko, Kerry, Max, Jane, Emma, Rebecca, Moira, Alison and Adam for the time and energy you put into cooking and serving food, and an extra big thank you to Kerry and Borko for slicing and donating 23kg of onion!

A huge thank you to Heather - she put the whole day together. The final net total that was raised was \$2403. Nice work!

SPOTLIGHT ON A VOLUNTEER

Marg Peachey



I've known Marg Peachey for almost 40 years, but it's easy to forget that not everyone else has known Marg that long. So, for all those that don't know Marg as well as I do, here is some of the background that led her to being the founder and President of ACT Wildlife.

Marg was originally a member of the The Wildlife Foundation ACT, joining at about the same time as I did, over 20 years ago. (We originally met as young mums at playgroup in Darwin in the 70's) She was an active carer until the time the group joined with the RSPCA, at which time the name was changed to RSPCA Wildlife. This association with RSPCA provided wildlife volunteers with access to a venue, administrative support and to the services of a vet. Marg was employed by the RSPCA firstly as an Education Assistant and then as Wildlife Officer. As Wildlife Officer she managed all wildlife carers and volunteers, six wildlife staff members, animal intake and assessment.

Following the 2003 bushfires and the loss of the RSPCA buildings Marg ran the wildlife section from her home, putting up numerous aviaries and enclosures to house the many bushfire affected birds. She did this for about three months, until carers were able to take over the caring role again and the RSPCA had regrouped. There were many dedicated volunteers answering phones (for RSPCA and Canberra Connect), treating, feeding and cleaning animals.

In 2008 Marg was instrumental in canvassing for and then organising the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference here in Canberra.

RSPCA Wildlife was disbanded about 5 years ago, after which Marg wrote and taught wildlife education courses to vet nurses and environmental students at the CIT. During this time Marg continued to stay in touch with wildlife issues nationally and following a two year break in the provision of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation services to the ACT public, Marg made the decision to reform the group, now known as ACT Wildlife. She called a meeting at her home and was buoyed by the response of approximately 25 "old" volunteers, keen to get the group running again. The rest, as they say, is history. But that doesn't give any indication of the countless hours Marg has spent putting in place the infrastructure needed to set up a group such as this from scratch. And Marg is very clear, she could not have done this without the support of the committee and volunteers

Under Marg's management ACT Wildlife has become a registered charity, a step towards reducing the financial burden borne by volunteers and allowing the group to further grow and realise Marg's long term goal of having a fully funded wildlife hospital.

In the year since Marg's nomination in last year's Australia Day Awards, at which she was a finalist in the Local Hero category, ACT Wildlife has gone on to receive an ACT Environment grant to treat Sarcoptic Mange in the wild wombat population. This was only possible because the ACT Wildlife has a well established volunteer base and an infrastructure that allows its members and participants to be supported in such a large scale undertaking. The Mange project has allowed the group to begin being proactive in animal welfare issues, rather than its current predominantly reactive role of rescue, rehabilitation and release. The Wombat Mange Treatment Project has alleviated the suffering and improved the health of as

many as 70 wombats living along the Murrumbidgee corridor. The project has collected valuable data that can be used to direct future treatment of mange affected wombats in the ACT.

Marg brings a wealth professional knowledge and skills to her role as founder and president of ACT Wildlife. She is the chairperson of Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference (AWRC) – a group which facilitates the national wildlife conference that meets every second year, bringing together wildlife professionals and carers to maintain an up to date knowledge in that field.

She is a member of Canberra Ornithologist group and the Canberra Indian Mynah Action Group. She is also on the Animal Ethics Committee for the University of Canberra and is a member of the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC)

Her other interests are music and calligraphy, both of which provide a creative outlet to round off her busy wildlife commitments. She plays alto saxophone in the Tuggeranong Valley Band, and for many years has run a small business undertaking calligraphy for clients including government departments and private commissions.

Lindy Butcher

Interesting links

Interesting thoughts on [roo culls](#)

Emerging reptile disease on Christmas island [here](#)

Mange Project Update

The Mange Project has completed its initial treatment stage, treating about 140 burrows at Lanyon and Gigerline. The project was divided into three sites, including a control site at Tharwa, that has about 70 burrows set up with flaps, but not receiving any Cidectin. Lanyon and Gigerline were both treated for 16 weeks and Lanyon will continue to have two monthly treatments for another year. All sites have been videoed pre and post treatment and we are now evaluating the post treatment video and comparing results with pre treatment images. Although this is not yet complete we have some strikingly contrasting images.

The project could not have been carried out without the many hundreds of hours of time given by a core of very committed volunteers, frequently out in very unpleasant weather. It is very gratifying to see these early results.

The top left and right images below show a wombat at burrow 65 before and after treatments, and below left and right, a wombat from burrow 33 before and after treatment. These photos are taken approximately 8 months after treatments began.

While we can't be certain that these represent the same wombat, the post treatment videos seen to date show no severely mange affected wombats. We are optimistic.





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....

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

AND NOW..... JUST BECAUSE SHE'S SO CUTE.....
SWAMP WALLABY CASSIE
SHE DEFINITELY DOESN'T WANT TO SHARE HER APPLE



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