

ACT Wildlife

Winter 2023

NEWSLETTER

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Message from the President

Yuma (welcome) to our new Management Committee members who were formally appointed at the AGM in April 2023. The committee will have met four times by the time you read this message which demonstrates the commitment and amount of work that needs to be planned and achieved. A strategic planning day has been scheduled for June 2023, more details to be emailed.

2023 Committee

President

Yana del Valle

Vice President

Stephen Bartos

Treasurer

Don McLeod

Secretary

Evelyne Meier

Committee members

Vanessa Barrat

Ben Rawson

Dorothy Brown

Amanda Topaz

Adam Coppard

Tara Ward

Peter Murray

Clare Wynter



Yana del Valle

In the coming months you will also see implementation of the five (5) recommendations from the Mills Oakley report. Focus will be on policy development for: bullying, harassment, and grievances; complaints; and, work health and safety. I would like to reassure everyone, that membership consultation will form part of the process and training will be available for all members wishing to participate.

May 2023 saw two main events being the ACT Volunteering Expo in Campbell and the RSPCA's Million Paws Walk at Patrick White Lawns. I would like to extend a special thanks to all our volunteers who made both events very successful, it was reassuring to have stall visitors acknowledge our work. ([see more](#))

A meeting with the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, Mr Bren Burkevics, took place in mid-April 2023, who has since requested ongoing bi-annual catchups

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Acknowledgement of Country

ACT Wildlife acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they and their Elders, past, present and emerging, make to the life of this city and this region.

Message from the President *cont'd*

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with ACT Wildlife. The meeting, which was initiated by ACT Wildlife, raised several matters including:

1. Outcomes of Government Response to Environmental Volunteering

The main aim of the meeting was to identify contacts within the ACT Government so that we can raise the profile of this initiative as a priority for the organisation. A follow-up meeting with the Senior Director of the Resilient, including the Biosecurity Veterinarian has now taken place with further meetings planned to progress the government's response. ACTW contact: Lindy Butcher

2. Collection of native plants from unleased land

I raised the collecting of browse on public land and the existing avenues to apply for an exemption to our licence for our carers. Mr Burkevics advised that he supported an exemption in principle. I have since met with the Licencing Unit and you will see our licence updated and circulated in the coming weeks. This has been an excellent outcome and good example of collaborating well with the ACT Government. Training will be updated and provided to any volunteer wanting/needing to collect browse.

3. Animal Friendly Netting Program

ACT Wildlife have received funding from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) to deliver a netting swap program. ACT Wildlife have proposed that in addition to swapping out non-compliant netting identified at residences, it will offer a swap service on a 1:1 basis from our Jerrabomberra Wetlands office with other outlets to be confirmed. Mr Burkevics was keen to commence the media campaign as soon as possible. Program contact: Clare Wynter

4. Support for front-line responders

Mr Burkevics advised that EPSDD engage the services of SupportLink to assist their staff with traumatic incident debriefing and similar services. He has spoken with Executive Director Donna Evans who is very happy to talk with ACT Wildlife about our specific needs and potentially offer free services to all our front-line responders (carers, phone, transport and rescue). This could be a great initiative and if you're interest in participating, please email: training@actwildlife.net

Finally, I'd like to encourage all volunteers to refresh their relevant training to ensure you remain compliant with the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Native Wildlife – Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release. Contact Adam Coppard by emails at: training@actwildlife.net for more information.

Stay warm and safe over the winter days and nights.

Committee Meetings

ACT Wildlife holds Committee meetings once each month. Financial members are welcome to attend but must advise the Committee ahead of time that they will attend and not contribute during the meeting. Financial members can also submit items for discussion to the Committee and be invited to speak to the items. Emails must be received by the secretary@actwildlife.net 7 days prior to the meeting date.

The Executive members meet monthly prior to the Committee meetings.

Meeting dates and minutes can be found on our Members login page actwildlife.net/member-login/.

Introducing Our New Staff

We would like to introduce and welcome our two new staff members Bonnie and Victoria, at our Jerrabomberra Wetlands Wildlife Clinic. They are working with Louise and Angie during the week and together on Saturdays.

The extra staff has enabled our Wildlife Helpline to be staffed 8am-6pm Monday to Friday and Saturdays 9am-4:30pm, relieving some pressure off our amazing phone and transport volunteers.

Please say Hi to them and share your knowledge. For further information please contact Office Manager Dorothy Brown info@actwildlife.net



Bonnie and Victoria

Calling All Carers!!

For the last four years we have produced and sold stunning fundraising calendars featuring animals that you've cared for. This calendar is sold across Australia and the world, and raises awareness of the work we all do and our unique wildlife. Last year we sold 900 copies. This year we are asking you to submit your photos for the 2024 calendar.

Calendar Photo Guidelines

- The animal needs to have been in care during the year January 2022 to May 2023
- Your photo may be taken on a recent model phone camera or a traditional camera
- It needs to be landscape orientation
- The animal must be photographed in a way that reflects our best practice methods of rehabilitating wildlife.
- The owner of the photograph must be a financial member of ACT Wildlife.
- The photo needs to be submitted in the form on the members section on our website by 1 August 2023. You must include the dates the animal was in care and its Wildman number.
- If your photograph is selected for the calendar your name will be included as photographer (optional).
- If you prefer to have someone else take a photo of your wildlife for the calendar we have a team of photographers who will be very happy to meet you and take photos for you. Contact either Louise Carroll lcarroll81@hotmail.com or Anita Entriiken anitaentriiken@gmail.com to arrange this.
- Photos that aren't included in the calendar will be uploaded to our website during the year so that visitors to our website can enjoy them.

Events

During May ACT Wildlife held two booths staffed by various volunteers.

Volunteering Expo

The first was the Volunteering Expo held on Saturday 20 May at Campbell High School. It was really well attended by many members of the public wanting to know how they can volunteer.

The event was opened by Aunty Violet Sheridan - Ngunnawal Elder; Andrew Leigh, MP, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury and; Robyn Hendry Chair of Volunteering ACT Board.



from left: Tracy, Amanda, Andrew Leigh MP and Stephen.

Million Paws Walk

The second event was the Million Paws Walk, held the following weekend on Sunday 28 May. There was a steady stream of dog owners who visited our booth keen to know more of what we do.



Patrick and Whitney

A huge thank you to all ACT Wildlife volunteers who gave up their time to look after both booths and chat to members of the public. A special kudos to those who braved the minus temperatures at the Million Paws Walk. To all of you, thank you, we could not have managed without you!

Grants

We are very excited to announce that ACT Wildlife has been approved for a grant from money raised at the [National Press Gallery Midwinter Ball](#). Ben Rawson received the notification from Paul Donohoe, BDW Special Events P/L who wrote:

'Thank you so much for your submission and I am thrilled to advise that you have been chosen as one of our 2023 recipients. We will do our best to fund you fully to cover the cost of veterinary services for \$30,000.00.'

Update: The ball, which was held on 21 June, raised \$35,000 for ACTW and will go to support veterinary care, medication and food for wildlife rehabilitation.

Congratulations to Ben Rawson, Vanessa Barrat, Amanda Topaz and Don Mcleod for their success with this grant.

New Sponsor

The Fundraising Committee has secured a corporate partnership with [kindpeople](#), a local business that sells garments such as t-shirts and hoodies. The vision of Kindpeople is to create garments that deliver kindness around the world. Their guiding principles are kindness, generosity and love for all.

They pledge to donate \$5 from every garment sold to a charity and have generously included ACT Wildlife as one of their charities.



Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

The theme for the 2023 conference is **'Building Communities'**.

Presentations will deal with challenges faced and/or overcome during COVID-19 and other emergencies (bushfires, floods etc.) and innovation in wildlife medicine and/or rehabilitation that has advanced the industry.

Day 1 and 2 presentations will take place at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC) and will be available via Zoom for those unable to travel to Perth, Western Australia. Morning presentations on day 3 will also be at the PCEC.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit two Perth-based wildlife rehabilitation facilities as part of day 3 excursion packages.

Register through [Eventbrite](#).

For more information: www.awrc.org.au/perth-2023.html



Operation Pelican

[Australian Seabird and Turtle Rescue](#) has contacted ACT Wildlife, and other wildlife rescue organisations, to alert us to the possibility of an influx of pelicans this winter as juveniles leave the Lake Brewster and Lake Cargelligo area. There is currently a large breeding event with 30 000 plus pelicans are in the area.

The juveniles can get themselves into all sorts of strife when they leave the breeding grounds, which a family in Gordon can attest when to. Last year they let their dog out into the backyard only to find they had a new garden ornament.



Pelicans not only have specific needs when in care and for release but also require careful handling. Make sure when holding a pelican that the beak is only lightly held. Pelicans have nares (nostrils) that are only partially open so they mostly breathe through the sides of the bill. Seabird Rescue has provided an excellent Pelican Care information sheet covering rescue, handling, caring and transport which is available on the [ACT Wildlife members web page](#).

While there are resident pelicans in the ACT, Seabird Rescue thinks that these migrating juveniles are ultimately better off down at the coast. Canberra is too cold for young birds and they won't know how to find food and shelter. They need to be fattened up and released to a coastal colony.

Seabird Rescue will take any pelicans that arrive here (we had three last year after a similar inland breeding event). It's just a matter of caring for them, for a day or two while transport is organised. If you are interested in helping out, the best carrier for a pelican is an XXL soft collapsible cage with a minimum size of 90 cm long and 60 cm high and wide. A Subaru Forester can fit two carriers in at a time.

Further details can be obtained from our Bird Coordinators birds@actwildlife.net

Bird Tragedy on Uriarra Road

Recently a large quantity of seed was spilled over a 5km stretch on Uriarra Road (Denman Prospect) causing birds of all species to fly onto the road for what seemed like a free meal. Tragically it was nothing but carnage for them as vehicles had no warning of the huge numbers of birds on the road. The speed limit is 100km/h through the area and many birds were unable to take off quickly enough to avoid a collision.

ACT Wildlife was called by distressed joggers/walkers to help with the situation. Unfortunately, all we could do was to place makeshift signs, remove dead birds from the road and check for any survivors. Sadly, there were no survivors with some taking their last breath as they were lifted off the bitumen.

The outcome could have been so different if only Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) had responded to the numerous requests for appropriate signage which could have slowed traffic down. Whilst a street sweeper was deployed, it was not effective in removing the seed off the road.

Canberra Cycling Club had two-day racing along the road which we believe saved some lives but also escalated speeds with motorists trying to overtake.

ACT Wildlife is committed to keeping our wildlife safe and this was a disappointing situation where we were unable to speak directly to any one in authority heading into the long weekend. Access Canberra tried their best to escalate the situation to the rostered on TCCS personnel, but they were unable to authorise effective signage.

Huge gratitude to Susan Wishart, Steve Styles, Jane Whyte, Graham Moss, Alison Thomas, and all our volunteers that had to experience such a devastating situation.

If this story surfaces, or you are experiencing mental health problems, please contact [Wildtalk](#) or your health professional for support. As wildlife first responders, ACT Wildlife can only support you if you reach out.



Goodwill Wine

When you order wine from Goodwill Wine, 50% of the profits from your order will go to your selected charity. You can select ACT Wildlife as your selected charity.

Goodwill Wine have raised \$504,822 for Australian charities so far.

Orders can be placed here through the Goodwill Wine website.

goodwillwine.com.au/



ACTW Container Deposit Scheme

ACT Wildlife is now set up with the ACT Container Deposit Scheme which donates to charities. To donate to ACT Wildlife you need to use the drop off code **E012893** and our phone number is **0432 300 033**. There are more details on the ACT Container : actcds.org.au/

You can return eligible drink containers to three different types of return points: Drop & Go Point, Drop & Go Pod and Cash-back Depot.

There are a number of return points located across the ACT- there is one near you! This return point (photo below) is located near the Burns Club in Kambah.



If you have a story about wildlife in your care that you would like to share in the next newsletter, forward it with photos, to newsletters@actwildlife.net

End of Financial Year (EOFY)



June 2023

Dear Member

Support wildlife rescue with a tax-deductible EOFY donation!

Did you know, ACT Wildlife receives more than 10,000 calls to its wildlife rescue hotline every year, from the community seeking help and advice for injured, displaced and orphaned native animals.

We are the only multi-species wildlife rescue group in Canberra. We rescued 2,109 birds, 507 possums, 104 bats, 19 echidnas, 28 reptiles and 39 wombats in 2022.

Your continued support will ensure Canberra's unique wildlife has ongoing access to rapid rescue, expert care, and the best chance of returning to the wild.

As you know, ACT Wildlife relies on donations to help pay for our annual operating costs, and to supplement expensive veterinary, medication, equipment, and food bills paid for by our 300+ volunteers.

For the upcoming end of the financial year (EOFY) 2022-23, I would like to encourage you to consider donating to ACT Wildlife for a fully tax-deductible end of financial year transaction.

We've made donating easy through our website: <https://actwildlife.net/donate/> or our QR code below.

Thank you for your kindness and continued support,

Yana del Valle
President, ACT Wildlife – *Volunteer*



Donate QR Code