

# WILDLIFE TALES



**January 2010**

**Wildlife Tales** is the official newsletter of  
**Wildlife Animal Rescue & Care Society Inc.**

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Next Meeting **Saturday 16th Jan.**

General Meeting

**1.00 PM**



3 orphaned Bandicoots came into care at Christmas

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

from *Scott Jones*

Welcome to our first newsletter for the new year.

Once again we managed to care for over 5000 animals last year. We are still chasing down the final numbers. It is a tremendous effort from both our dedicated carers and the phonies who do a marvellous job in handling the calls and arranging rescues (and our fruit cutters at Wambina).

We had some sad news at the Christmas Meeting. One of our members, Emma Denny passed away unexpectedly. Although I did not know her well, she was an active bird carer and will be dearly missed by many of our members.

Unfortunately we have also had a number of resignations from some of our key management positions over the last few months. All these positions are advertised in the newsletter and I would encourage any members that are interested to apply. The management committee will give you all the support it can.

Our web site continues to develop, or those of you that check the site regularly may know that the blog pages are up and running. Hopefully we can use the blogs constructively to communicate any issues between meetings.

The management committee recognises that even after almost twenty three years of operation we still have problems with the way the ARC operates. At the next meeting we are hoping to discuss important issues such as phone procedures, animal records, newsletters and communication issues which have fallen into disorder over the last few years. All these areas need improvement and I want to encourage everyone to come along and contribute to the continued success of the ARC.



Protective Fencing has graciously decided to sponsor ARC's work to the sum of \$1,000 this year.

Last year ARC responded to over 5,000 native animal rescue calls. Late in the afternoon of New Year's Eve Michael Elliss rescued a Lorikeet that had flown into a window. This may not have been our most news worthy rescue but it was our 5,036th for the year.

### POSITION VACANT TREASURER

Nominations can be posted to the secretary at P O Box 2308 Gosford NSW 2250 and can also be sent to the secretary's email address [arc@wildlife-arc.org.au](mailto:arc@wildlife-arc.org.au) and they can be seconded at the meeting  
Please state qualifications and experience

### FOR SALE ARC BOX TRAILER

RRP as a 2nd hand unit \$800- \$1000,  
Sale price to ARC members **\$650 !**  
Covered 6 x 4 Box trailer  
with internal side shelves,  
in excellent condition. Registered.  
Call Scott on **4372 1836**  
to arrange inspection or for more details

## OTHERS REPORT

We are currently looking for a head carer for Others, so unfortunately the report is a bit thin. There may be a few more Others out there.

Naomie Downey has two antechinus that came in at 2 grams and are now almost ready for release. Lorraine Castellari has a wombat in care.

Sharron Jones also received a late Christmas present. The RSPCA rang her with a Bandicoot that had been hit by a car with three babies (around 65 grams each). The mom was dead, however the babies (Andy, Bandy and Candy) are growing fast and doing well.

# SEABIRD REPORT

By *Deb Kulk*

12 rescues in total for December 2009 being 8 Pelicans, 1 crested Tern, 2 Cormorants & 1 peacock.



**THE SEABIRD TEAM;** Debra Maksimovic, Deb Kulk, Wendy Harris and Linda Morrison.

The seabird section was kept busy in 2009 with a total of 252 reported rescues.

Pelicans-90, seagulls-9, Terns-2, Ducks-9, Cormorants-25, Mutton birds-110, Herons-3, Darters-4 Water dragon-1 and 1 Giant Petrel.

The seabird section consists of 4 members that live up the northern end of the territory.



Debra with male pelican



Debbie Kulk force feeding female peli before release



Wendy Harris with female peli with damaged wing

Wendy and Linda both work, with Debra and me with family and study commitments. So it isn't always easy to attend rescues at times, but we do what we can.



Deb- the correct way to hold a pelican



Wendy taking an ARC call in the boat.



Linda-ready to release a pelican

Thank you to the ARC members who help our section by attending rescues when we can't go, it's very much appreciated.

Please remember if you have attended a seabird rescue, don't forget to report it to me, Deb Kulk so I can keep up to date records.

We have also changed our transportation method of pelicans to a much easier way. These fold away pet packs are great and inexpensive to purchase. They fold flat so you can have them with you in the car boot at all times and they fit on the back seat of a small car when erected. No more snappy pelicans or regurgitation in the car while driving.



## THANK YOU

The birds and animals of the Central Coast would thank you all for the tremendous job Arc members do to help protect them.

Last year ARC responded to over 5,000 native animals in distress just in the Gosford and Wyong council areas. If Telstra hadn't changed our phone number and people realised we were better represented on the central coast than wires we probably would have taken a lot more calls.

In most cases there was a human cause for the problems the animals and birds encountered. Development (destruction) of their habitat, cars and pet attacks accounted for a lot of our calls.

Thank you to all the members of the public that cared enough about wildlife to call ARC.

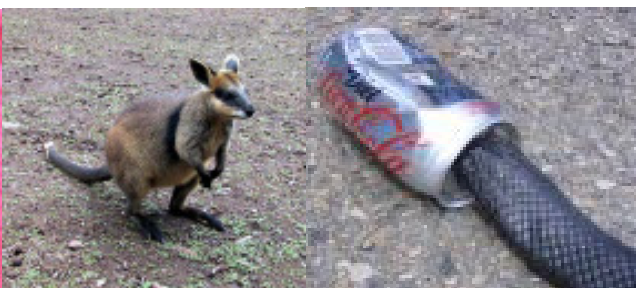
Thank you to the phonies, who probably had to make more than 20,000 phone calls to organise those 5,000 rescues.

Thank you to all of the rescuers that go out at all hours and sometimes travel great distances to rescue animals, sometimes placing themselves at risk to save wildlife.

Thank you to the carers that spend so many late hours nursing sick and injured wildlife.

Thank you to the vets that take in injured wildlife and treat them before passing them on to us for rehabilitation and release.

Here are just a few pictures from success stories. We are glad you think it was worthwhile.



### POSITIONS VACANT

#### Head Carer - Birds

Clause 15 b. of the Constitution states;

Nominations will be sent in writing to the Secretary at the official ARC address so that the Secretary will have them prior to the Management Committee meeting at which the nomination will be considered. The candidate will be a qualified carer within the relevant animal section.

The nomination will be signed by nominator and a seconder both of whom shall be carers within the relevant animal section and will be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate.

A1 **Organic Matters**  
**Local Native Plants  
for Local Native  
Birds and Animals**  
mark@organicmatters.com.au  
**4390 2087**  
13 Moola Rd Buff Point  
open Mondays & by appointment





## FLYING-FOX REPORT

from *Gwen Parry-Jones* Head Carer

Happy and Healthy New Year to all ARCians and their families and animals.

Hopefully it will be a better start to the decade than 2001/9 with regard to the Flying-foxes, Macropods, Possums, Wombats, Koalas and other native animals that have been killed in their thousands legally, in the last ten years under DECCW's licences.

It is ten years since the Independent Scientific Committee declared the Grey Headed Flying-fox "Vulnerable". This classification carries legal requirements to protect any animal so declared to avoid it slipping into extinction. Nothing has been done to stop this happening to the Flying-foxes and it has now been scientifically estimated that these animals will be extinct by 2070 and unviable long before that.

How can this happen you ask? By the Labour NSW and Commonwealth Governments doing nothing to stop this slide to extinction in order to keep the Rural vote.

Before 2001 the care groups monitored the number of Flying-foxes by counting the fly-out each year. The reason for the 2001 "Vulnerable" declaration was, in part, due to the decline of the number of Flying-foxes counted each year. After 2001 NPWS {or DECCW – or whatever it is called this week) took over the count. These showed a similar decline in numbers, so in 2005/6 the Commonwealth Government took over the count and they "found" a hidden secret colony of some 300,000 flying-foxes so declared the animals were not declining in number. The counts have not been done since. Why????

A Recovery Plan is part of the LEGAL requirements to stop a vulnerable animal from extinction. A committee was established to write this "plan". The majority of members being NPWS employees and orchardists. Scientists and conservationists formed the minority. So a Recovery Plan has never been finalised, let alone implemented. I really don't know if legal requirements have been met. All enquiries have been met with – "it is being done". Procrastination is the way to go, if you put off requirements to save a "vulnerable" species indefinitely the animals will be extinct before you "get around to it."

The biggest killer of the Flying-foxes is the orchardist. Licences are granted to anyone who applies for one. You do not have to have an orchard of a certain number of trees, or a certain area you do not have to PROVE by taxation returns that you are suffering a loss, you just say the animals are causing a problem and you not only get a licence to kill but you can have as many friends to help you as you wish. The orchardists have thought up a great scheme. With no scientific investigation they have invented "scouts". Flying-foxes who seek out the orchards and then go back and tell the "hordes" so the Government issues licences to shoot 50 (scouts) each season. No one checks and the orchardists shoot with gay abandon even holding "shooting barbecues" most weekends in the Summer months when the victims are predominantly lactating mothers and mothers with young. The babies of the lactating mothers left in the colony sites die as they cannot digest anything but mothers' milk for their first six months of life. No one investigates that the licence conditions are met and on our investigation one orchardist shot over 200 animals in one night. Full details were submitted to the DECCW but nothing happened – the orchardist was not even prosecuted. We still have a freezer full of the dead bodies in bags with vet details of their injuries. This atrocity happened on Remembrance Day 2008.

So we are still hoping the Governments both Federal and State take action to save the Flying foxes – the pollinators that care for the forests and therefore help with our fight against Climate Change – and stop the slaughter that will lead to extinction of these most important animals in order that the Government politicians keep the rural vote..

P.S. This December ARC carers rescued 22 starving orphaned babies (four died in care) from a local colony site. These represented only ten percent of the dead ones found on the ground. If we could rescue them early in the week they were saveable but after Tuesday they were either dead or very ill. This disgusting situation was the result of shooting in local orchards each weekend. It was heart-rending to hear the babies crying in the canopy where we could not reach them. We had to wait until they fell down before we could rescue them. There are four other colony sites in Gosford that we did not have the time or manpower to cover. And this is a Vulnerable Species !!

## CHICKS IN CARE - KOOKABURRAS

from *Valda Barton* - Lake Munmorah

Kookaburra chicks came into care after the massive tree their nest was in collapsed onto a house causing extensive damage. They were found by the tree lopper called to quote on removing the tree off the house roof. An Arborist was called to advise on cutting that section of the trunk out and relocating that section to another tree. Unfortunately the section was so large and so heavy that no other tree in the vicinity would support its weight; hence the babies had to come into care. Weighing 147 & 154 grams we estimated them to be 7 to 10 days old. Home owner, a lovely lady, was very concerned over the fate of the chicks. Unfortunately an artificial nest could not be made and hung in a tree as the home owner did not want the worry of them being there without human supervision (in case they fell out of the make shift nest) due to the fact that she was going to hospital the next week for major surgery. Now she is home again an artificial nest has been made and we hope to reunite parents and chicks.

Bold one now weighing 260 grams. Look at my lovely chest feathers coming.

Shy one now weighing 275 grams & feathers unfolding

Rescuers can now use these photos to identify chick Kookaburras as we get many doves into care that come in as Kookaburras.

I made the artificial nest for them out of cheap hanging pot plant holders with coconut liner and Glad Tuff Stuff garbage bag over top for waterproofing.

**Update;** One has been adopted by a wild colony and the other one is being fed by the colony but not ready to fully fledge yet. Hope it goes in the next couple of weeks.

## FAIRY MARTINS

All birds are difficult till you learn their special needs. 16 Fairy Wrens came in. The little ones were 5 minute feeders when 1st come in and the others were 15 & 30 minutes depending on the feather development on them. We keep expanding time between feeds as they grow till you get to hourly feedings.

Fairy Martins from hatching to flying in wild is 3 weeks. With us adopted parents we aim for 5 weeks.

I took them to work and watched them all day to see which ones clustered together as unlike many other birds, parents lays eggs & chicks hatch at different times so not unusual to see three different size chicks in one nest.

Linda Wilson and I split them up as per family group rather than by size. Last time I got so many in together I was new and was advised by a senior carer to split them up by size & give to other carers. We lost 70% of that lot. Now I know better we got all 100% through.

We train them ready for the aviary. In a cage they have to start hovering to take their food off a stick then off to the aviary. Once they go into the aviary I buy fly larvae for them. As the flies hatch, they have to catch them and eat them before I can release them. (same for swallows)

Anyone who gets them in can ring me for advice on how to raise them at any time. Kingfishers and honeyeaters also as I would love to pass on my knowledge to others. I am also good at recovering paralysed birds (legs mostly). Unfortunately most carers don't think they can survive in the wild and get them euthanaised.

the steps to raising birds

- 1) Identify the bird
- 2) Read your bird book on habitat and imitate habitat in their plastic cube
- 3) My bird book shows nests so I always build a nest to roughly same shape
- 4) Position of nest in plastic cube important. Swallows, fairy martins are raised off the ground so I put nest on a stack of folded towels
- 5) Feed them my bird mix (mince, Insectivour & scientific kitten biscuits)
- 6) Give them my magic mix which is a liquid food I make up (Insectivour ground up really fine & Polyaid mixed together)
- 7) Feed them as the parents would e.g. small birds more frequently than larger birds. Starting at 15 mts and expanding to hourly when sub adult
- 8) Give them extra water each day



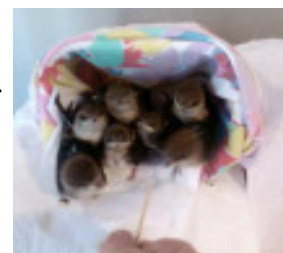
**Bold**



**Shy**



**5 cent piece to gauge size**



**Artificial nest to mimic natural nest**

## POSSUM REPORT

from *Naomie Downey* Head Carer East  
Happy new year everyone! The possum and glider section currently has a fair amount of various species, at different stages of rehab all around the coast.

Up north we have a couple of juvenile Brushtail possums and Sharron and I would both like to give a big welcome and many thanks to Chris Randell for taking on the responsibility of Supervising the Possums and Gliders in the North area.

In the South we would also like to send a big hello and Thank you so much, to Leila Desborough for taking on Supervisor South. There are 7 Brushtail possums being looked after down there, in care and also on soft release with Leila and Gill London, thank you both very much.

The Westerners are busy with 9 Brushtail possums, 6 Ringtails, 1 Sugar glider and 1 Feathertail glider, thank you Westies!

Out East we have 7 Ringtails, 4 Common Brushtails and 1 Mountain Brushy, 4 Feathertail gliders and a Sugar glider.

I would like to give a big welcome to our new member Emily Howard, who has her first ARC possum, a gorgeous little Brushy boy named Squiggly. Also very happy to say, Tracey Goddard as her first little joey and is doing a wonderful job with this baby brushy boy, that she rescued from Terrigal on Thursday night.

Just a reminder that we are continuously looking to recruit carers and rescuers for the possums and always desperately in need of new release sites. Please contact the relevant Head Carer or Supervisor of your area if you would like to lend a hand.

Thank you all so much Possie rescuers and carers. A big thank you as well to all ARC members for being a part of the team.

## 2 POSITIONS VACANT

**Head Carers - Possums North & Possums South**  
Clause 15b. of the Constitution states;

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## POSITIONS VACANT

**Head Carer - Others**

**Head Carer - Possums (South)**

**Head Carer - Possums (North)**

**Head Carer - Birds**

## POSITIONS VACANT

**Head Carer - Others**

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## The Sydney Rainforest

125 Dog Trap Rd, Ourimbah

Ph: 02 4362 2499 Fax: 02 4362 2411

ABN: 57 002 219 383

**Open every Friday for  
retail sales 9 - 5**

Jessi Grace will be here to help with any questions.

Check out our Ugly ducklings sales bench all \$1, \$2 and \$5



Local rainforest, riparian and wetland species  
Contract growing, seed collecting, bush regen  
Tubestock, advanced and super advanced plants  
Discount for Wildlife Arc members

**Local Native Plants - Natural Solutions**



## WEBMASTER'S REPORT

from *Tony Peppercorn*

People are slowly starting to use the 2 blogs(phonies and general) despite there being a few intermittent problems. I'm still trying to get to the bottom of the problems so thank you to the blog pioneers and sorry for the metaphorical arrows in the back!

You will also notice that I've started( at Mark's suggestion) a section showcasing the rescues that ARC has done. I've started it off with a kookaburra rescue that Valda Barton wrote up for me, complete with pictures. Mark has also sent me a good 'stash' of rescue stories from back issues of Wildlife Tales. So I'll be working through those and gradually adding to the stories.

When I put up a new article I test it out first on Firefox and then on Internet Explorer. Things don't always look the same on different browsers. If you notice anything unusual, e.g. strange characters or pictures missing can you let me know at [webmaster@wildlife-arc.org.au](mailto:webmaster@wildlife-arc.org.au). When you do so can you also tell me which browser you are using(e.g. Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, Chrome, Safari etc).

Lastly, I've also been trying to improve ARC's website ranking in Google searches. This takes time and a bit of experimentation. I've been trying to look at it from the point of view of a person who has found an injured animal and doesn't know who to contact. The search phrase I've been using is 'wildlife rescue central coast' which shows us in the top ten, but we should be much higher. Or would that person not bother with the internet and be more likely just to ring the nearest vet?

## COMPUTER TRAINING

from *Mark Snodgrass*

At the November meeting we decided to run an ARC related computer training session early this year. We are setting this at beginner level but if you have more advanced questions someone might be able to answer them. We think we can help the people that have computers but are mostly self taught or have been shown how to do somethings but want to know more.

Despite all of the disinformation a couple of members were emailing around, ARC has no intention of trying to make computers compulsory. We just want to help those that already have a computer get the most out of it. We are thinking of doing a handout with some basic commands and instructions that could be kept handy until things come naturally and we might do a handout cd with some useful files on it.

Tony Peppercorn will be there to go over the website and it's operations and Sally Hopkins will be there to go over how the record spreadsheet program works.

So far we have only had one serious person say they wanted to do the workshop. Unfortunately, if there isn't a reasonable number of people that want to do it, we wont be able run it. It seemed like a good and popular idea when it was suggested at the meeting, so if you are interested or want to come let us know.

Everyone from the beginner to a bit more proficient users will benefit from this. I have some questions on the website and basic microsoft things.

Please send me your queries and we will organise the training around those questions.

We are still looking for someone who is a proficient Mac user that would make themselves available to answer those sort of questions?

I will be organising this so please send your comments and questions to [wildlifetales@wildlife-arc.org.au](mailto:wildlifetales@wildlife-arc.org.au)

We may need to book a special venue with the computer facilities so we need to know how many people to book for.

## SNAKE FORUM

from *Todd Rose Snake Rescuer - Wyee*

Hi Guys, I've just starting up an Aussie Snake forum site and would like to invite you to come and have a look. It's brand new so it's not on google yet.

<http://aussiesnakes.hostingdelivered.com/index.php> please tell as many herpers as you can.

Thanks Todd Rose

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## OVERDUE MEMBERSHIP

There are a number of members that have not yet renewed their membership for this year. Members who have not renewed must now pay an additional \$5.00 joining fee. Unfinancial members are not permitted to rescue or care for wildlife. If you want to continue in the ARC please renew NOW.

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## ADVERTISING OF ACTING POSITIONS

You may notice a number of positions vacant advertised in the Newsletter even though there are people acting in the position. The title "Acting" is not recognised in our constitution. At the last Management Meeting the Committee determined to make these positions permanent. As a result we have had to advertise these positions in accordance with the constitution.

Where a position is vacant, the committee can appoint someone to fill this role until it is advertised. In future, the term "Interim" will be used for these appointments and the position will be advertised in the newsletter until filled.

Deputy positions are not vacant - they are people acting for a head carer who has been granted leave of absence - up to six months - by the management committee. At the end of the period the Head Carer resumes their position.

If there are no applications received for an interim appointment for an executive or administrative position, then the interim position is made permanent. If there are applications received then the general meeting votes on the position. These appointments are valid until next AGM.

With Head Carer positions they must be applied for and voted in by the management committee. Head Carer positions are permanent until they resign, fail to attend two consecutive meetings without an acceptable reason, or do not perform their duties.

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## FOR THE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will be an agenda item at the January meeting. There are a number of issues to do with production, printing, distribution and the transition to the new website to be discussed. The issues will be distributed with the agenda for the January meeting but if you would like to read over the 3 pages of issues I can forward them to you if you email me a request; [wildlifetales@wildlife-arc.org.au](mailto:wildlifetales@wildlife-arc.org.au) or snail mail to; The Editor, Wildlife ARC PO Box 2308 Gosford 2250

**Thanks to all the contributor for the stories and pictures that make this such a good read. We need a constant supply of new material so keep sending them.**

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## NOTICE OF MEETINGS 2009-10

<b>Saturday 16th Jan.</b>	General Meeting	1.00 PM
<b>Saturday 20th Feb.</b>	General Meeting	1.00 PM
<b>Saturday 20th Mar.</b>	General Meeting	1.00 PM

**All Meetings are held at Wyoming Community Centre  
Maidens Brush Road, Wyoming**

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The Wildlife ARC rescues and cares for injured and orphaned native animals on the Central Coast. It was started in 1986 by Gwen Parry-Jones and in 2008 we cared for over four thousand animals. Help for native animals can always be found on our 24/7 manned emergency phone and we are active in promoting wildlife conservation. All ARC members are volunteers and ARC training is free. New members are always welcome.

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DISCLAIMER Any views expressed herein are that of the authors and not necessarily of Wildlife Animal Rescue & Care Society Inc. (Wildlife ARC).