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# THE TABLELANDS TAILS

## NEWSLETTER OF

### NORTHERN TABLELANDS WILDLIFE CARERS

#### ISSUE No 117 SPRING 2018

[www.ntwc.org.au](http://www.ntwc.org.au)

Emergency numbers: 1800 008 290 or 0408 555 719

#### *Flying-Fox Release Report*

Julia Rose

The Grey-headed and Little Red Flying-fox camp which happened in Armidale during last Spring and Summer was not welcomed by most of the residents close by.

NTWC carers led by Jacquie Maisey spent many voluntary hours at the site monitoring the birthing, removing abandoned pups and dead animals. We walked the neighbourhood and distributed our newly published NTWC leaflets into letterboxes and talked to residents.

The team would like to thank the many residents who were willing to help and monitor with us. The last of the Flying-foxes wisely left before the cold winter weather set in and when the food supply dwindled from eucalypt trees and fruit trees. Armidale Regional Council brought in a consultant for a community meeting and then applied for a grant to produce a *Flying-fox Camp Management Plan*.

A small amount of funds were reserved to assist landholders remove tall trees at their back fences to prevent future roosting close to their homes. This action is happening now to prevent future problems.

During the 3 months the Flying-foxes were giving birth, there were many abandoned and orphaned pups which were rescued. Only a small number survived the cold temperatures of the estimated 4-500 pups which dropped.

The survivors we cared for were transferred to a coastal creche which is set up for the purpose of acclimatising and releasing them. Feeding each pup can be quite expensive so NTWC thank members of FAWNA (NSW) for including our animals in their programme and sharing a support Grant from IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare).

The pups are now all released and have joined their extended family. I have been told food has been plentiful along the coast this year so we hope they all remain there until their usual flight westward during Summer.



*Photograph by David Elkins © NTWC*

## Contacts for Northern Tableland Wildlife Carers

2018/19 Committee

President - Diane Hansford

Vice President - Robert Spreadborough

Secretary - Libby Kettlestring

Treasurer - Julia Rose

Committee Member - Kelly Stumbles

Committee Member - Phyllus Jones

Committee Member - Janina Price

Coordinators

Armidale - Diane Hansford

Birds - Julia Rose

Flying Foxes/Microbats - Jackie Maisey

Macropods - Diane Hansford

Reptiles - Colin Wood

Glen Innes - Kelly Stumbles

Inverell - Caty Baker

Tamworth - Janina Price

Tenterfield - Karmell Cowin

Northern Tableland Wildlife Carers is a network of trained volunteers licensed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. We rescue, rehabilitate and release injured, sick, and orphaned native fauna.

For assistance, please call our emergency number: 0408 555 719 or our free call number 1800 008 290.

Membership: authorised and support membership

\$25 Single Membership

\$30 Family Membership

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

This newsletter is designed by the NTWC Editorial Team and printed by Fuji Xerox.

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PLEASE NOTE

Our new email address is:

[ntwcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ntwcsecretary@gmail.com)

## **Tamworth area report**

**Janina Price**

Well I must say it's been a dry old Winter here in Tamworth. We've only had a few specks of rain, which makes it hard on the flora & fauna. In my 14 years of rescuing & caring for wildlife I have to say I've moved heaven & earth to get kangaroo joeys into someone else's care. But now I find myself caring for the younger joeys.

I've been leaving posts on Facebook to remind people that NTWC cover the Tamworth area and are keen to help. I've also gone to see our vets here in Tamworth to let them know NTWC members are here, willing and able to care for our injured wildlife, whatever it may be.



I had an Australian Owlet Nightjar come through that the cat had bought in. Luckily the lady knew where I lived so she bought him straight around. I administered antibiotics and 5 days later it went back home for release. The same lady bought me a Sugar Glider, with the same scenario with the cat. Again I started it on antibiotics straight away and 5 days later it went back for release. It's amazing what antibiotics can do.



*Photograph by Janina Price © NTWC*

*Photograph by Janina Price © NTWC*



*Photograph by David Elkins © NTWC*

So, I guess by now you would know it's Magpie season. We've had a few swoopers reported in Tamworth from push bike riders. Don't forget that if you see a fledgling Magpie on the ground, hold off on your caring instinct to rescue it straight away as it's most likely 'in training' with its parents. If it's not in immediate danger and if adult birds are around, just keep an eye on it for a few hours and only intervene if it's in distress!

It's coming up to breeding season for our parrot species, as I've noticed the Galahs are starting to chew on the hollows. Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) has removed a couple of old growth trees, so I've spoken with the *powers that be* to have nesting

boxes put up as a lot of hollows were removed in the lopping.

It's also duckling season, so when you're talking with family and friends ask them to be aware while out walking their dogs to please keep them restrained. Even though these little guys are wonderful to raise, we all need our mummies to teach us what to do.

No need to ask you to slow down while driving about day and night, our Kangaroos are starving & everywhere along the sides of the road. There is so much road kill. It's so sad! Most of the animals coming in are joey kangaroos & this is going to put pressure on our members who can release them.

Anyway, stay the path, folks.  
You're all doing a fantastic job..thank you!

## Glen Innes Area Update

### Articles and photographs by Kelly Stumbles © NTWC - GI Area Coordinator

We're nearly into Spring and what a change it is to this time last year. August 2017 saw my roo pen covered in long green grass that was thoroughly enjoyed by the two Swamp Wallabies and two Eastern Grey Kangaroos I had in care. We were getting plenty of rain and my joeys were often quite wet from hopping around and grazing out in it. However August 2018, as we all know, is a lot drier and although I'm lucky to still have grass it's heaps shorter,



patchier and browner so the two Swamp Wallabies and a Red-Neck Wallaby I recently sent to pre-release had to search harder to find a bit of green grass to eat around the pen. I have been watering the native plants I have planted in there in the hope they don't die on me as I want some more cover and food within my pen for the joeys that call it home for a short while whilst in my care. Around our area, and I've also noticed it in other places, some of the eucalypts are turning brown and appear to be dying from the lack of rain and moisture in the water table. It's quite horrible to see this as so many of our native animals rely on our native plants to survive and there is already enough habitat being lost through clearing.



Over the last three months there have been around 50 calls in our area with most being for macropods or birds. The last month in particular has seen more macropods coming into care with it getting drier and some of the only green pick available being on the side of the roads. However, not all have ended up in care from being hit by vehicles, as some have had their mothers shot, and others were caught in fences.

There were a variety of birds that came into care. Kookaburras were top of the list followed by parrots - mostly Crimson Rosellas - and there were also a couple of the following; Tawny Frogmouths, Magpies, Currawongs - which found their way down a chimney and two Southern Boobook Owls.



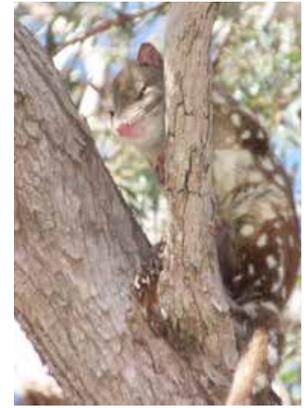
A number of Brushtail Possums were rescued. One tiny baby who didn't make it, came into care after it's mother was decapitated when the tree she called home was cut down and then cut into firewood. Another was found with its dead mother on the ground and a young juvenile was found curled up on the ground with a very bloated tummy. On a brighter note, two baby possums and a juvenile that have been in care for a while have since been successfully released.

Even a couple of Bluetongue Lizards made their way into care over the cooler months. One had been burnt in a grass fire.

Echidnas are starting to be on the move again and one came into care after it was found digging near a fence causing dogs to bark. It ended up with a fractured beak after a member of the public thought it was best to dig it up a move it away from the large dogs behind the fence it was trying to dig under. This was a good idea but not executed the right way - if only he had called me first instead of moving it himself.

As a result it had to come into care for a while so the fracture could heal, which it did and it was released back close to where it was found. The amazing thing about this echidna was how big it was - it weighed 5.7kg! I spoke to Peggy Rissmiller, the Echidna expert at the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference held in Sydney, who said 'it was a good size, as you don't get many that big'. She has

About four months ago, I received a call to rescue a Spotted-tailed Quoll from inside a house in town. It had apparently gone through the doggy door to get in and then couldn't find its way out after being bailed up by a couple of small dogs. It was roughly a fortnight later that I found one up in eucalypt tree just outside our kitchen window.



We have quolls in our area and east of us is a hot spot for them but I have never known them to be in town and I have cared for a number of quolls since 1999. Both were young males and in good condition, so it's hard to know whether they are just moving out further to find new territory because their numbers are increasing, which would be a good thing as they are a threatened species, or whether they're being pushed out further due to habitat lost.

### **Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference - AWRC**

At the beginning of July I was lucky enough to attend the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference - AWRC in Sydney along with Jacquie Maisey, Julia Rose and Phillip Rose. It was the second conference I have been to and there were numerous presentations covering a variety of areas to do with wildlife. It was a big three days of presentations followed by excursions on the fourth day.

### **Raptor Rehabilitation Centre - Flight Aviary**

Julia Rose and Kelly Stumblers went to the Raptor Rehabilitation Centre south of Sydney where we got to see the amazing round flight aviary.



### **Koala Rehabilitation Workshop - WIRES Course 4 & 5 August**

At the beginning of August, Julia Rose, Kelly Paul and Kelly Stumbles were able to attend the Koala Rehabilitation Workshop held by WIRES in conjunction with the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital.

The course was lead by Cheyne Flanagan who is the Clinical Director at the Koala Hospital.

It was a great course and the half day at the Koala Hospital was very interesting and gave us a good insight into capture techniques and equipment. It was also good to see firsthand



## **Australian Wildlife Rehabilitators Conference 2018**



This bi-annual conference was held at the Abercrombie Business School, at the University of Sydney. The excellent venue was the business school auditorium at Sydney University. Our first three days were filled with very interesting speakers on a huge variety of topics. I can recommend you look for the papers which can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.awrc.org.au/sydney-2018.html>

During these conferences there are wonderful new products for sale and information posters to read at intervals.

On day four, excursions included a trip to Taronga Zoo, the Bird of Prey Centre in Nowra, the Wildlife Animal Health Hospital at Penrith and even a Blue Mountain's sightseeing trip for those from overseas or other states.

The NSW Wildlife Council generously made available a grant to encourage more carers to attend for which we thank them very much. Four members from NTWC attended and we all stayed in an apartment in Glebe which was good. Another resident who shared with us was Meredith from FAWNA who very kindly drove us all to the venue and back each day, saving us bus trips in peak hour traffic.

We finished off with a fun night out together by going to the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) to watch and learn about an AFL match. Quite exciting and such good family entertainment. Go the Swans!



*Photograph by Kelly Stumbles © NTWC*

Next AWRC conference will be held in Darwin in 2020.

### **Wildlife Carers at risk: NSW Health recommends vaccination against Q-Fever**

Q fever is a bacterial infection that can cause a severe flu-like illness. For some people, Q fever can affect their health and ability to work for many years. The bacteria are spread from animals, mainly cattle, sheep and goats. Even people who do not have contact with animals may be infected. A safe and effective vaccine is available to protect people who are at risk.

NB: Screening is required to identify who can be vaccinated.

For more information go to the following website

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/factsheets/pages/q-fever.aspx>

## **Regional Australia Bank (RAB) - Community Partnership Program Presentation Night**

**By Julia Rose**

*NTWC thanks the Regional Australia Bank!*

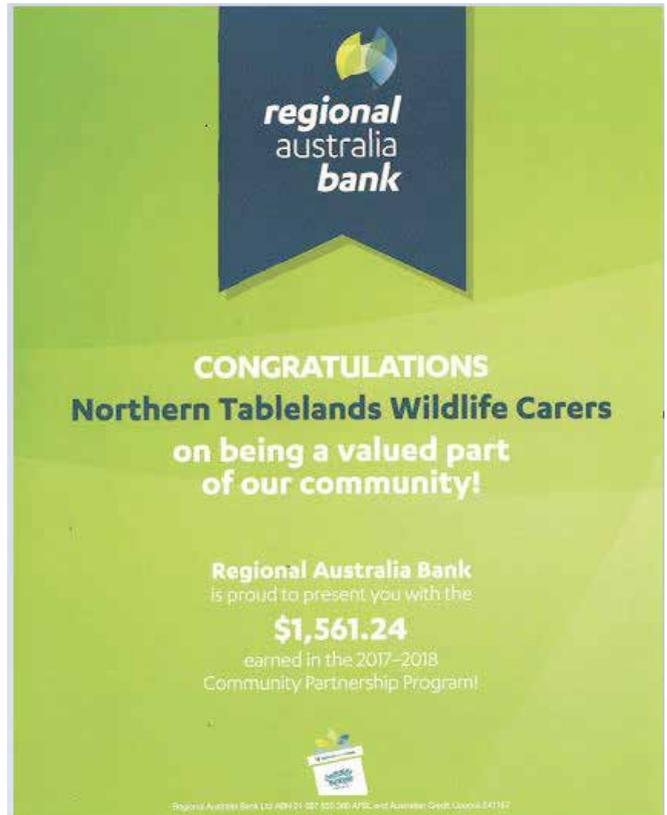
Jacquie Maisey and I attended the Regional Australia Bank presentation night last week. I am pleased to announce that NTWC received a certificate of appreciation and a deposit for \$1,561.24. It was a good evening!

Jacquie spoke well on behalf of our group and after the presentation with their media team seeking more promotional material. While at the presentation, we admired the promotional boxes and have cheekily asked if we could use old ones as rescue boxes ... they are ideal. If members are in a RAB branch, make a point of asking for promotional boxes in your area as well. The Manager has said yes to us!

We would like to encourage more members to consider nominating our group for the *Community Partnership Program*. Please encourage your friends to join in this program to help raise money for our group.

The *Community Partnership Program* allows RAB members to support their local community simply by transacting with a selected savings account and nominating their choice of organisation from a list of almost 1,000 registered groups and causes. Just choose a local community group you're passionate about (hopefully NTWC) – and simply go about your banking. The RAB calculates your average annual balance and donates the equivalent of 1% back to your chosen group.

This is such an easy way to raise funds which allows carers time and energy to rescue and rehabilitate our native wildlife.



## **Spare a thought for our wildlife: They're doing it tough too!**

**by Diane Hansford & Alan Wylie**



*Photograph by Diane Hansford © NTWC*

It's been a tough few months! The drought has caused it to be a hard time for macropods as well as the farming community. In dry times, the roos, wallaroos and wallabies become more visible as they travel to find feed and water for themselves, often venturing to the sides of the main roads and into the towns where feed is still available but this exposes them to greater potential danger from motor vehicles, dogs and, dare I say, humans!

In Inverell recently, we received a call about a large male roo who was happily grazing in a culdisac on the edge of town. The local residents called NTWC and WIRES several times and were advised by all to keep their children and dogs away and that the roo would eventually move on. One of our experienced carers from the area, attended and assessed that this beautiful male was not injured and was just finding

a green pick. She strongly advised the local residents that they should not approach the animal and repeated the advice to keep children, dogs and adults at a safe distance.

Unbeknown to our carer and our association, the members of the public contacted the local council whose employees then tried to encourage the roo out of the area. This resulted in a fright and flight response by the roo and, while attempting to jump the fence, it became caught in a gate leading to a compound fracture of the foot. The police were then called to euthanise. However, as this was a built-up area, they were unable to discharge their firearms. The last we heard of this incident was that a local vet had been called to sedate the animal and presumably to euthanise it. By this stage, we were unable to attend to save this animal. Such a waste!

The local residents were not prepared to wait for the roo to move on in its own time. A more successful outcome would have been 'to leave well enough alone'. It just goes to show, how poorly informed the public are when it comes to living with and dealing appropriately with native wildlife in our environment. We need to do more to educate.

### **Meeting Dates**

Next meeting 25th November at Glen Innes Sale Yard.

Combined Committee and General Meeting followed by an end of year lunch.

- Cost of lunch \$10
- Cost of morning tea \$5
- If attending both, \$15 per head.

Please contact Libby Kettlestring on [ntwcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ntwcsecretary@gmail.com) to book a place for lunch.

### **Special Announcements**

#### **Raffle No 2 2018**

- 1st prize - Wattlebend Retreat
- 2nd Prize - Hamper
- 3rd Prize - Platypus print
- 4th Prize - Koala image on a handtowel + drawing book
- 5th Prize - Koala earrings

Contact Julia Rose for tickets  
[jrosecarwell@bigpond.com](mailto:jrosecarwell@bigpond.com)



Sender - Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers  
PO Box 550 Armidale NSW 2350

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Logo patches may be purchased for \$5.

Contact Julia Rose at  
[jrosecarwell@bigpond.com](mailto:jrosecarwell@bigpond.com)

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