



# FAWNA INC. NEWS

**August 2010**

**Volume 27**

**No 4**

## In this Edition

Wildlife care is our focus and making the FAWNA group as proactive and responsive as possible, our goal

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Fundraising Raffle - tickets available soon - a possum picture as first prize. Thanks again to Ranger Outdoors for valuable voucher prizes (page 6)

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## Dates for your Diary

Date	Time	Venue	Event & Contact
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2:00 - 4:30 pm	Metricup Bird Park	FAWNA Open Day and social event for members and guests.
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Set up day	Churchill Park	Busselton Show - FAWNA Animal Nursery Jeff 9754 8256 Bev 0427 272 171
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	All day	Showgrounds	

## President's Message

Winter has arrived and even the Possums are noticing the cold. The scurrying along the fences and on the roof has slowed most nights and I don't blame them. Whilst the rain has been good, the falls are considerably below average. I guess we are waiting the approach of spring both for the improvement in temperatures but also for all the new young it will bring forth. We have a clutch of New Holland honeyeaters being fed in the nest that happens many times each year just outside our laundry so that exit point from the house has been closed for now.



**Jeff receiving the cheque from Rotary  
President Lawrie Walter**

It was a fantastic training program offered by Peter in Kirup and whilst he has a foot in both FAWNA and WAWRC camps, the end result is a far more knowledgeable carer fraternity. We need more sessions like this and as members have said constantly these are beneficial. Courses like this need many more members to attend to make them financially viable. We hope to have some low cost courses up and running soon and look forward to seeing as many members as possible attend. Thanks Peter especially for your coordination of this.

The Busselton Show is looming and it seems that it will be a challenging year for us as Cheryl and Vicki are not able to do as much as they have in the past. Their efforts are legendary and much appreciated so whilst we seek as much support from them as possible; it is time for other MEMBERS step up and to volunteer to help.

Bev, Cheryl, Vicki, Donna, Linda and I have met and are steadily planning the show. Bev has established a spreadsheet of the "what, who, when, where and how" of getting it all together and is working with the committee to ensure all goes smoothly. Hopefully as many members as possible can give a little time on the 30th October to help with our "Nursery Display Area." The more that help the easier and more enjoyable it will be for everyone. Not only is the show a valuable P.R. and Education exercise, but it also brings in much needed funds to provide financial support for all members. Please contact one of the committee to offer your time, suggestions and expertise.

We gained a valuable donation from Rotary to financially support our medical supplies box at the vet, but it only takes one setback like the badly injured Chuditch that Peter looked after to absorb all and MORE of these funds.

It is gratifying to see that many things are moving along nicely. Sadly our shed cannot go to the Busselton showgrounds but has found a home in the L.I.A. We will have another busy bee (date and time to be announced later) to put it there. What we need now are concrete slabs and the more the better.

If you know where to get them from (free preferred, of course) then please latch onto them and bring them to the busy bee or at a spot we designate later so we can put down a floor. I am sure all the committee members would be happy to store them in the short term if you can get them to them. Even a few from everyone will help!!!

FAWNA has had a number of successful committee meetings with many guidelines being approved. On this note, we have been fortunate to have been offered some money towards some long term projects that will help our wildlife. The benefactor at this point is waiting to see what projects we put to him but also expressed an interest and approval of our move towards greater accountability and the collection of statistics from when the wildlife comes into care and the end of the process. Jodie also has been working on this and we all need to support this little bit of extra documentation in order to be able to demonstrate our effectiveness and highlight our needs

For those of you who read the Fauna N.S.W. newsletter, we would agree I am sure that the personal stories were fantastic and I would hope they have inspired you to share your experiences with Ian via an email so that they can go in our newsletter. Ian is doing a fantastic job and we should all be proud of all our efforts.

On that note Ian, like Peter, has found a home for a collection tin for donations. Please consider your local area and we can organise a poster suitable for a window and a donation collection tin. Give it a try as we can always do with more money for vet bills and medicines and the like.



Till next time; thanks one and all for your efforts.

Jeff

## Possum Care Manual.

Uta Wicke, FAWNA member and President, Possum Centre has published an excellent and detailed Possum Care Manual. It is an authoritative account of possum care and is highly recommended to all carers.

It is available free of charge to members of the Possum Centre or may be purchased for \$10 from the Possum Centre. Donna can supply copies to those who wish to purchase one. Please contact Donna on 9752 2215



## Russel the Pelican

Bev got a call from a family in an inland suburb of Busselton who had a sad looking Pelican in their backyard. Why it was where it was and why it didn't fly away was a mystery. The bird was taken to the vets for an x-ray as no obvious sign of injury was evident, and they kept it in for an observational period.



Russel then was collected by Bev and I and taken to her Swan enclosure for a feed and more observation. It was slow to recover from the anaesthesia and we spoke with Linda from the Western Australian Seabird Rescue team in Mandurah (.What a great organisation they are!)



If

you ever need information and support from people who deal with sea creatures then they are an excellent starting point. I was appreciative of being able to attend their recent weekend workshop with Marny Bonner who founded the Australian Seabird

rescue organisation based in Ballina. Not only did they offer advice and suggestions as to when and how to release but also



offered to, and did pay for the vet care.

It is wonderful to know that there is such a fantastic network existing in the field and the knowledge and support is there if you take the time to look and share.

We released Russel in the afternoon the following day and he joined another 8 or so fellow Pelicans on the wetlands north of Wonnerup. Bev went back early the next morning and saw Russel doing well with his new mates. He didn't have time to say thanks but that's ok.

### Contacts:

Linda in Mandurah - further information email [linda-e@mandurah.wa.gov.au](mailto:linda-e@mandurah.wa.gov.au)  
Australian Seabird rescue organisation  
[www.seabirdrescue.org](http://www.seabirdrescue.org)



## Tree Planting in Baudin Park

It was a cold but mostly sunny day and a dozen or so members of the Naturalists club under the coordination of Bernie Masters (and with the support of Geocatch), and members of the public like Linda and myself, took on the task of planting many hundreds of understorey species to refurbish the denuded ground in key areas in this park.



Most of the Arum Lilies had been sprayed though we dug out many more, and this wonderful group spent a total of some 60 hours digging planting and then enclosing the seedlings in a plastic protective sleeve supported by bamboo stakes.



I have since been back and the great majority have survived and are thriving. The possums and other wildlife that frequent that area will certainly benefit in time. The more restoration work like this that the community can be involved in the better.



I encouraged my neighbours to also attend and they brought young children who delighted in the digging, getting dirty, and the planting and will go back I am sure with pride to see the plants they helped nurture. This is the stuff that encourages our young to be more caring of our environment.

Help if you can in this sort of activity near you, look for the advertising in the local papers.

## Fundraising Raffle

This year we again have some magnificent prizes on offer in our fundraising raffle - thanks to the generosity of our own Lesley Jackes and to Paul and Shelley at Ranger Outdoors.

**1st Prize:** Large framed Carol O'Connor print of possums (see right). The original was painted in 1981, part of a collection of wildlife paintings that were used on a 1985 calendar. This magnificent limited edition would grace anyone's wall and has a retail value estimated at \$250. It is large, measuring over 900 mm by 650 mm.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** \$100 Vouchers to spend at Ranger Outdoors.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** \$70 Vouchers to spend at Ranger Outdoors.

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize:** \$30 Vouchers to spend at Ranger Outdoors.

Our raffle will be conducted over the eight weeks from the 4<sup>th</sup> September to the Busselton Show on 30<sup>th</sup> October

Please ask for a book of tickets.

Ian Watson Phone: 9752 1853  
Mobile: 0427 407 305



We have 700 tickets to sell at \$2 each.

Please make sure that as a member of FAWNA you make your contribution to this fundraiser by selling your fair share of tickets. Of course, you are also allowed to buy tickets for yourself, your friends and your family. The prizes are well worth winning. More importantly, the funds raised by this raffle will go a long way towards supporting our work into next year

## Grants & Funding

Throughout the year many grant funding opportunities are advertised. They vary considerably from funding to assist small non-profit organisations and its members with administrative costs and office equipment to covering volunteers' fuel costs and training, to larger grants funding environmental projects. There is even one specific to wildlife caring.

So far this year, I have lodged a successful application for funding from DEC for 4 new large outside aviaries to be used in our rehabilitation of western ringtail possums prior to release. I was also put onto another grant offering funding or part-funding for the production of t-shirts and other promotional materials.

It is hoped that such a grant will assist us in promoting the organisation when we are out and about in the community. Having been successful with our DEC application we look forward to similar success with this second application.

I am currently finalising an application for a Lotteries West grant to fund some much needed caring equipment such as hospital boxes and heat pads.

Because the grants are so varied and become available at all different times of the year, it would assist me greatly if you can let me know of any grants you see and think may be relevant to our organisation.

Also it would be very beneficial if I knew ahead of time of any items or projects that you wish funding for, so that I am aware of these as grants come up.

This way, as a team, we can maximise our opportunities to take advantage of the grant funding out there.

If you have any ideas of items or projects needing funding or become aware of grants as they come up, please email me on wood\_jodie@hotmail.com or phone me on 0409 313 801.



Jodie

## Information and Open Day – Sat 4 Sept - Metricup Bird Park

Our second Information and Open Day will be held at Metricup Bird Park on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September. This location is convenient for our members and guests in both Busselton and Margaret River



Please come along for a prompt start at 2:00 pm and enjoy the fellowship. It will be an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences in a unique setting.

Free entry to FAWNA members; gold coin donation requested from guests.

Members please bring a plate for afternoon tea. Tea & coffee will be provided.

### PROGRAM

#### 2:00 - 3:15 -BIRDS.

Nancy (Metricup Bird Park) - what action to take when you find an injured bird.

Mel (Dunsborough Veterinary Hospital) practical demonstration - strapping a bird's wing.

#### 3:15 - 3:45 -AFTERNOON TEA;

Networking - time to chat and socialise.

#### 3:45 - 4:30 - MAKING A POSSUM DREY

Ian (FAWNA) practical session - building a possum drey from a coir door mat

The day has been arranged for sharing information in a sociable setting with time to talk about problems or interests and to ask questions about wildlife caring.

It will assist catering if you can indicate attendance by calling Ian on 0427 407 305.



## Wild BABY BIRDS

As FAWNA members we all do our best to follow the three Rs - Rescue, Rehabilitation and Rescue. The procedures we use at either the rescue or the rehabilitation stage can have a marked impact on our final goal - successful release.

Studies have shown that, on average, birds



raised alone do not survive as well as those that are raised with others of their own kind.

Additionally, baby birds can be raised and rehabilitated more successfully when they live with others of their own species.

The reason usually given for keeping birds together is that birds in a group are not under as much stress as solo birds.

There is also less chance of the bird imprinting on the rehabilitator if there are other birds around all the time.

At release time, birds that have imprinted on their carer have a much harder time adapting to their natural environment - 'the wild'. They are less likely to survive and they will find it harder to breed and raise their own young.

Some FAWNA rehabilitators have established a network aimed at helping to overcome this difficulty. "We keep in touch and pair our single babies with each other wherever possible. This spring I would like to try and pair up more baby birds."

"I plan to start a network and would like you to contact me if you would be a part of this caring network. Contact me by phone or email so that we can communicate about the babies we have in care and the species we each deal with. Hopefully we can pair even more baby birds this year."

Donna 9752 2215 donna.cain@bigpond.com

## Stress in Kangaroos

There are real dangers in carrying joeys around the town in cars, whilst doing the shopping! I frequently see this and also hear of it happening from my many Busselton friends. I believe this is a very stressful situation for the joey.

After caring for kangaroos continuously for the last 25 years I'm very aware of their fragility to stress.

I have been receiving quite a few larger road-injured kangaroos recently.

I released a 16kg female after a month in 'hospital' care & now have 20kg male with concussion. He is OK, slow process and still requiring warm environment. I am feeding bottles to 3 joeys presently still in the house and another 2 who now live outside. One of my old boys died recently at the grand old age of 15 years, and I have noticed another old boy Billie who is about 12 years now who lost his top roo position many years ago, and is now suffering the effects of arthritic hips. - Adele



## **FAWNA MEMBERSHIP – RULES UPDATE**

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There has been a review of the rules of our organisation which apply to all members. They are copied below for your information. Any questions please contact President Jeff on 9754 8256

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### **GENERAL RULES OF FAWNA INC**

1 All Acts and Regulations pertaining to either animal welfare or wildlife are to be adhered to at all times.

2 FAWNA Inc will maintain a complaints register. Any complaints, either written or oral, made against FAWNA carers/members are to be documented in the complaints register.

3 Members of the public and other FAWNA members are to be treated with courtesy, care and due respect at all times.

4 The Management Committee will approve any contact with the media on behalf of FAWNA and any content of any such media release must be approved by the President.

5 All subscriptions of \$10 per membership are due on the 30th April in any year, and if not paid by the 30th of June these persons will no longer be deemed financial members of FAWNA.

6 All depots and wildlife carers must provide to the committee, when required, a record of all native animals taken into care on the appropriate FAWNA Inc record sheet.

7 All carers/members who fail to abide by FAWNA Inc rules or, by their actions bring FAWNA Inc into disrepute, will be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

8. All FAWNA members who are under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a guardian/parent while undertaking any FAWNA Inc activities.

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### **DUTY OF CARE FOR FAWNA INC. MEMBERS**

1 It is imperative for members to complete and submit a Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Volunteer Registration Form to enable cover to be provided for some medical expenses should injuries be sustained whilst undertaking wildlife rescue activities. Members are held personally responsible for damage they cause to any person or property.

2 All FAWNA carers/members premises must be managed in a manner which does not contravene any Health Acts or Local Government Regulations.

3 All carers/members must accept that personal and human safety must always come before animals.

4 No venomous creatures are to be handled by carers/members unless the member is trained and licensed to do so.

5 All carers/members are to wear appropriate protective clothing before commencing any rescue situation i.e. long pants, long sleeves, hat, boots/closed in shoes, protective glasses, gloves etc.

6 Members are not to engage in any activities likely to cause damage or personal injury to themselves or others, such as climbing trees or buildings to retrieve injured or sick animals.

7 All vehicles used for FAWNA activities must be currently registered, the driver hold a valid driver's licence for that class of vehicle and the vehicle should be comprehensively insured.

8 Any boats that members use in the course of wildlife rescue and release must have a licensed skipper and be carrying the correct life saving equipment.

9 All carers/members who cannot swim are prohibited from going in boats for any FAWNA related purpose.

10 All carers/members must obey all road safety rules.

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## Wildlife Rehabilitation Workshop – Kirup

What a marvellously informative, well organised and well presented workshop this was!! Although very cold, being July, the venue, the **Blackwood District, Department of Environment and Conservation Office**, was an ideal spot for this event, not only being fully equipped with a lecture theatre (air-conditioned), but also a kitchen, spacious display areas and an outdoor area. Many thanks to **Peter Vickridge** for organising and coordinating this workshop. Thanks and acknowledgement must also go to **Diane Hunter**, who continues to amaze me with her absolute commitment, professionalism and unbounded enthusiasm in her role within **WAWRC**.

This workshop was attended by quite a diverse range of people all of whom are committed to the care and rehabilitation of wildlife, including vet nurses from both Bunbury and Busselton, people who work in wildlife parks, carers (including a woman from Albany), Wayne from Mandurah who has a tree lopping business and therefore comes into contact with displaced fauna, as well as several FAWNA members.



The presenters were professional, passionate wildlife carers who were able to impart and share their knowledge and answer the many questions from the workshop participants.

On Day 1, **Peter** took us through the importance of correct identification of native mammals and similar introduced species, including their behaviour, diet, size and location.



**June Butcher**, founder and chairperson of **Kanyana**, spoke about Licensing and Ethical Requirements for wildlife rehabilitators.

**Hugh Maclean**, **DEC**, discussed the protocols of **DEC Registration /Accreditation and Licensing**.

**Felicity Bradshaw**, a Busselton Vet with a passion for native animals, gave an insightful presentation on pain management. Her address included why we need to treat pain, how to recognise pain in wildlife, what to look for and treatment including drugs that are dispensed by veterinarians and naturopathic substances which can be obtained from chemists.

**Nancy Tang** informed as well as entertained with her marvellous raptor presentation, ably assisted by **Brian Mawby-Brown** and 'friend'. Nancy spoke about how to identify a bird as raptorial, raptor anatomy, nutrition, diet and feeding, and rehabilitation techniques, stages and release considerations. At the conclusion of her talk, Nancy invited the audience to participate in a 'hands on' experience. I wasn't quite brave enough!!

**Marg Robinson** gave an interesting talk on hand rearing Quenda, complete with useful information and practical tips from other carers during the discussion.

The final part of Day 1 involved small group discussion, planning for various release scenarios and then presentations from each group outlining their plan for release. This was facilitated by **Kanyana** presenters. The day ended with Question Time and Forum.

Day 2 began with an informative presentation by **June Butcher** on bird rehabilitation. June imparted valuable points to consider such as correct identification, observation and initial examination to determine what treatment is needed.

Bandaging of a bird's wing was demonstrated, followed by eager though tentative attempts by those of us who hadn't done it previously. I really don't know how you would do it on a live, non cooperative bird!!!

The ladies from **Kanyana** also demonstrated crop (tube) feeding, after which we were invited to have a go. Such a great experience!

Later in the day, course participants were given the opportunity to practise rehydration techniques such as oral and sub-cutaneous rehydrating on a variety of dead birds. This 'hands on' experience was a wonderful opportunity to learn from an expert in her field.

**Cathy Stuart**, from the **Darling Range Wildlife Shelter**, gave an informative presentation on wound management. Cathy's presentation included assessment of the patient and steps to take, wound care requirements, wound cleaning and wound assessment. Course participants were shown a range of wound dressings and products suitable for wound care.

During the concluding Panel session discussing common problems experienced by carers, we watched the video of **Birth of a Bobtail** which saw most of the women present, 'clench' and cross their legs!! Bobtail babies are born alive and are about one third the length of the mother.

And so ended the really worthwhile, motivating wildlife rehabilitation workshop! I feel very privileged to have been able to participate and humble in my veritable lack of knowledge in this field!!

**"The more you know, the more you realise how little you know!!!"**

Linda

## Black Cockatoo Rescue South West



David and Dee Patterson have been caring for injured black cockatoos for over 20yrs. They nurse these birds back to health and release them back into the wild. Those that can't be released are kept in captivity for breeding purposes. Known as Black Cockatoo Rescue South West they are DEC approved Cockatoo Rehabilitators. The facility is located near Nannup.

David tells us that:

"We can care for any cockatoos injured in the south west as this saves them the stress of being transported to Perth. We have an open flight aviary 42m x 12m x3.5m to build up wing strength before release."

"We will pick up injured cockatoos."

"Feel free to visit us anytime."

Phone 08 9756 1119

Mobile 0427 120 341.

David and Dee.

# FAWNA INC. NEWS

Published by

## Fostering and Assistance for Wildlife Needing Aid

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Your contributions, comments and suggestions for articles in the newsletter are always welcome.

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Or write to the address shown.

FAWNA is a public fund listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations under item 6.1.1 of subsection 30-55(1) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Donations of \$2.00 or more are Tax Deductible.