



Newsletter – March / April 2015

Contents

Review of 2014-2015

Review of
2014-2015 1

FAWNA's AGM was held on 14 March, giving us the opportunity to reflect on the previous year and to plan for the year ahead. Last year was a hectic year by any measure, but was also one that was full of plusses. A big thank you to old members for continuing and a warm welcome to all our newbies.

Emergency
help 1

FAWNA gained a large number of new members over the course of last year. This was primarily due to ongoing exposure of our organisation at events, online and in the media. We also gained some new committee members who have been getting to grips with the tasks at hand and ahead. In addition, we were very pleased to welcome the return of Ian to work with our effervescent secretary Suz.

Our
members 2

Beverley and Phillip put together another terrific "Animal Nursery" at the annual Busselton Show in November. This event becomes more popular each year with lots of families and people of all ages coming through our gate. Many thanks to members who brought along wildlife to display and who conversed with interested members of the public.

Finance &
assets 2

Nicola and John have worked very hard behind the scenes with our FAWNA webpage, the design and production of our FAWNA "Business" card and other initiatives which will prove hugely beneficial to the organization. The FAWNA FaceBook page is also proving to be very popular, now boasting 566 "Likes". Linda tries to include a variety of wildlife articles/events/photos/stories using both local and other sources.

Training 3

In another initiative, Ali, Amanda and Jess have taken on providing educational talks and displays at various schools during the year and this has also not only started to engage younger people but has also raised our profile generally within the community.

News &
events 3

2014 was an extra special year as FAWNA celebrated its 30th Birthday! The City of Busselton helped us celebrate with a sausage sizzle and drinks at the Busselton Community Gardens, whose members were also invited. Founding members, Amy Cocker (who named FAWNA) and Bethwyn Hastie were there to cut the

Picture
gallery 4

cake whilst Mayor Ian Stubbs presented a cheque for \$500 and a framed certificate to honour our achievements and encourage our continuing efforts. Our standing in the community has continued to grow and it was wonderful to see many old and new members attend as well as Cherie from DPaW who presented a "Land for Wildlife" sign. FAWNA's relationship with the Busselton Community Garden and Men's Shed will continue to grow during 2015 and all meetings are now held at the Pepi Café in the Community Gardens.

Committee
positions 5

As President, I have joined many other like groups to ensure our voice is heard and our aims furthered. These include the board of GEOCATCH, the Western Ringtail Action Group, DPaW's Rehabilitators Consultative Group and the Statewide Oil Spill team. I also work with the City of Busselton on committees including the Environment Reference Group and Coastal Reserves Management Planning. I trust members see that I have given of my best and I welcome all offers to help and to take on any of the office-bearer and/or committee positions to ensure FAWNA continues to be a positive and effective volunteer group in our communities.

Jeff Falconer, President

For help and advice.....

Emergencies – 0438 526 660 or your local depot (see page 3)

Animal Care Advice - 08 9754 6869 or 0427 278619

Our Members

Our macropod and waterbird (seabird) specialist, Marg, had a great birthday and took up residence in Wonnerup to everyone's surprise and happiness Not in that order, but then Marg has her own sense of priorities and order. She has already made her presence known through her tireless commitment to wildlife.

Many thanks to our volunteers who have helped with the production of possum boxes and pouches. This has been a wonderful effort. We are always in need of more so if you're handy with wood, cloth or wool, we would love you to get involved!

Rhonda Bright from "Base 99 Embroidery" has also kindly donated her time and expertise to FAWNA. As a result, members who would like a FAWNA t-shirt can now order one. Don't forget, wearing a FAWNA t-shirt is a great way to raise awareness of our organisation and to prompt discussion!

As mentioned on P1, our numbers are growing. This means amongst other things that good organisation and communication become increasingly important. As well as their other work behind the scenes, Nicola and John have set up a Dropbox facility for FAWNA containing the up-to-date membership database and key documents. Our office-bearers now have access to the database and are successfully using this facility. A big thank you goes to Carol for her continuing work in maintaining our membership list effectively. She advises that the number of members listed at 31 December 2014 was 164. This represented an increase in membership of approximately 30 since the previous year. Since then there have been a few additions in membership and no reductions.

An increase in the size of the organization and its geographical spread also means that there is increasing work for the small number of active people on the committee with duties. If you feel that you would be able to participate actively in the running of the organization and facilitation of our functions, please do not hesitate to volunteer, no matter in how small or large a way. It all helps and your contribution would be greatly valued.

Our members work very closely with local vet practices. This year we welcomed two new practices to the district and provided each with a HotBox and various medical supplies.

Finance and Assets

Our FAWNA committee voted last year to discontinue the requirement for members to pay a \$10 annual fee. Realistically, much of our funding has been coming from donations and grants in any case and the saving in not chasing the unpaid is reward in itself!

Helen, bless her, has been distributing and collecting our donation tins to and from various businesses, which gives us a very needed and steady flow of petty cash.

Our new treasurer, David has worked steadily and enthusiastically with Bev, and this year will also assist with the FAWNA assets. Our financial standing is more than satisfactory and will sustain us through all coming needs.

Finalisation of the agreement with the City of Busselton for a land lease and the funding via the City and Lotteries West for the construction of the FAWNA shed is very close at hand. Work starts on the shed in April and completion should only take a few weeks allowing the grants to be acquitted by May 2015 as required.

The shed will house the FAWNA Emergency Response van and other assets in central Busselton and we are very pleased to see this nearing completion. Thanks must go to Bev and also to Phil. He is the worker in the background supporting both FAWNA and Bev in things like this as well other developments such as the wonderful joey enclosure on their property to support Marg and the macropod transition to release program.

Jeff has made it clear to relevant organisations that the FAWNA caravan is an asset that is available for use in emergencies. Organisations can access the van by contacting DPaW. At the AGM, a lot of thought was given to where, strategically, the van should be located in a disaster area so that people have a focal point for taking injured wildlife. It is difficult to get permission for FAWNA to go into disaster situations and FAWNA respects this; however there may be some advantage to parking the van in the main street of town (e.g. Northcliffe) so that locals and emergency crews have a known place where they can bring any injured animals. Please could all members note that in a disaster situation, we will need volunteers in order to be able to move the van to where required and then man it in situ.

We are pleased to advise that FAWNA has been offered a new fundraising opportunity that involves selling entertainment vouchers. Anyone interested, please contact Jeff



FAWNA member, Georgia, entered a photo competition recently, nominating FAWNA as her charity of choice. And guess what?? She won \$500!!!!

Training

Your chance to consolidate existing skills or develop new skills in the company of like-minded individuals!

Basic Course in Wildlife Rehabilitation

On top of running a very busy Emergency Response Centre for all sorts of wildlife, Linda Moyle from Margaret River has been spending time negotiating with the "Community Involvement Unit" (DPaW), to provide a 2 day course on 1st and 2nd August. It is an introductory course designed for anyone in the community interested in the rehabilitation of sick, injured or abandoned native wildlife. Information is presented by some of WA's most experienced rehabilitators who will share their expertise in their specialist fields – marsupials, reptiles and birds.

The course is viable with 45 registered attendees and there is a discount. FAWNA members who have already attended / passed the course are free to attend for all or part of the course at no charge. Their attendance is seen as "top-up" training and their experience is welcomed. See website for more details.

Linda is co-ordinating so if you have any questions, please contact her on 0403 533367 or email her at eskybunsen@yahoo.com

Please see separate attachment for Registration form and more information

SNAKES ALIVE!

Jess organized and coordinated the "Snake Handlers" course held in February which was well attended.

Jess was in fact called upon very recently to use her skills when she was involved in another fantastic rescue and relocation of this Tiger Snake from Vasse Primary School one afternoon in late March.



Well done and thank you Jess!

News and Upcoming Events

Release site available

Anna Duffy has recently had a male Bronzewing come her way. He is a bit imprinted, but Anna is working on him with a view to being able to release him.

Anna lives 25km out from Busselton on 20 acres where she fox baits and tries to manage a good environment for the wildlife. She only has a few other wild birds and would like to release more where she lives. She has aviaries so can accommodate a soft release should it be needed.

If you have birds that need a release site (or know of any) Anna would be more than happy do it there and can be contacted on 0419 919 431

Date for your diary!

Balingup Small Farm Field Day is being held on 18 April and FAWNA will be attending and presenting as in previous years, for which there will be a nominal fee of \$15.

Amanda will be overseeing organisational matters for our attendance, whilst Marg, Helen Kingsbury and Suzy are listed as attendees / helpers.

Amanda will ensure that the new signs are attached to the FAWNA caravan before it is taken for display and that the Reg 16 licence which is needed for display of wildlife is taken (currently held by Bev).

Other volunteers are needed to help, so if you are free and would like to be a part of this, please contact Amanda.

Recent letter in the press

A member of the public recently wrote a letter express concern that "the authorities" ignored her call for an injured kangaroo to be euthanized, necessitating a response in the press regarding the role of FAWNA. Well done Jeff for a balanced, explanatory and instructive response that will be helpful for members of the public who may deal with this type of situation in the future. There undoubtedly remains an ongoing difficulty with contacting authorities about injured wildlife and the limited actions that FAWNA is legally allowed to take but it should be noted that the Helpline now has a person in the SW who is able to shoot where necessary

Find us online at <http://www.fawna.com.au> and on Facebook 

Picture Gallery



Peta, the western ringtail possum recently found at William Carey Court, now in Georgia's very capable hands. She is becoming quite fluffy! Well done, Georgia!



An update on Emile and Vincent who have been in Georgia's care over the last few months. They have reached 500g and have been weaned off their milk (Biolac 100). Georgia put 2 possum boxes in her large aviary but the boys still curl up together in the same box! So beautiful.

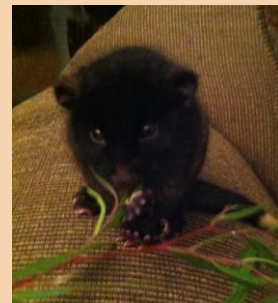


Darren - an 80g WRT possum. He loves curling up in the palm of your hand to sleep! So safe & secure!

My, how you've grown! The twins, Emile & Vincente now 500g



Kerry was found on a doorstep near the Busselton Tennis Club on 28th February, weighing 140g. As can be seen, she loves her leaves. New carer, Tiani is caring for her and she is thriving. She is now 300g. Tiani constructed her own cage and is now working on an aviary.



Anne's WRT possum, "Strawberry" has incurred the wrath of a mother possum and her youngster Ann has named, "Fluffy Face". Apparently, the resident female isn't too happy about having another female possum nearby.



Summary of the new Committee Positions for Review

Committee Roles and responsibilities – March 2015

Bev	Applications e.g. SGIO, Lotteries etc, acquittals, reports, reg16, Show etc (as per 2014)
Amanda	School visits, displays, talks and P.R (Brochures, posters etc)
Ali	Membership secretary and new member follow ups
Nicola	Survey , stats and webpage
John	Dropbox and records
David /Marg/Bec	Assets: supplies allocation and record keeping, coordination of production & supply.(Possum pouches, Roo frames for bags, possum boxes etc)
Helen	Fundraising (Tins, raffles etc)
Linda	Facebook, miscellaneous admin.
Jenny	Newsletters, notices to members, press releases etc
Suz	Corporate sponsorship, and mediation with other organisations (to support President when needed e.g. Fire responses)
Ian	Secretary, meeting minutes etc
Vicki	Release coordination /record keeping and advice

Go-to mentors for specific species:

<u>Go-to mentor</u>	<u>Species</u>
Vicki	Birds
Jeff/Linda	Possums
Jess	Reptiles / Turtles
Marg	Macropods

Our sponsors



Find us online at <http://www.fawna.com.au> and on Facebook

