



# FAWNA INC. NEWS

June 2009

Volume 26 No 2

## FAWNA General Meeting.

Date: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2009

Time: 12.00 noon for 12.30 pm start

Venue: Busselton Dunsborough Environment Centre.

**PLEASE: Bring a plate.**

FAWNA INC.

The Secretary

P.O Box 551

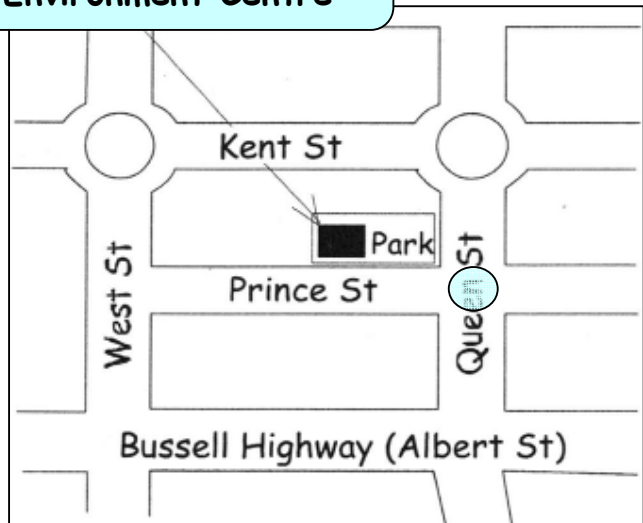
Busselton

WA 6280

email: [fawna@westnet.com.au](mailto:fawna@westnet.com.au)

web site: [www.fawna.com.au](http://www.fawna.com.au)

Busselton Dunsborough  
Environment Centre



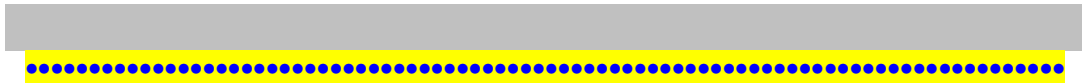
### FAWNA OFFICE BEARERS 2009

Chairperson	Kristy Gawthrop	9751 3023
Deputy Chairperson	Vicki Newman	9731 5252
Secretary	Amanda Bell	0407 440 743
Treasurer	Donna Cain	9752 2218
Emergency Assistance	Vicki Newman	9731 5252
	Gail & Frank Seymour	9755 3933

Photocopying courtesy of Troy Buswell  
Paper donated courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation

# Contents - June 2009

<i>Membership Subscriptions</i> .....	2
<i>Free food</i> .....	2
Chairperson's Report .....	3
Note from the Chairperson.....	4
<i>Further Information</i> .....	5
WAWRC: Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc....	5
Wildfriends .....	5
Causeway Road Depot.....	6
<i>Duchess St Depot ("half open")</i> .....	7
<i>Mabel's Musings</i> .....	7
Gunn Street Depot.....	8
Boyanup Depot.....	9
The CatBib - practical experience.....	10
Cheaper Supplies! .....	11
Last, but not least . . . ..	12
Dates for your diary.....	12

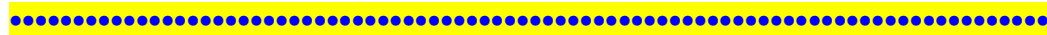


## Membership Subscriptions

If you have a Red Dot on the front cover of your newsletter, your membership is due, this will be your last newsletter. If membership is not paid by the 30th of June you will no longer be deemed a member of FAWNA.

To renew your current membership, please complete the form and return it with your membership fee to:  
The Secretary FAWNA Inc. P.O. Box 551, Busselton WA 6280.

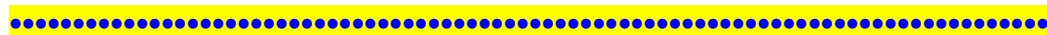
Membership can also be paid directly into our bank account:  
Bank West, Busselton. FAWNA Inc. BSB: 306 005, Account: 41 66 717



## Free food.

Are you in need of some food for your reptile, raptor or brushtail in care?  
Vicki has some frozen (dead) day-old chicks available to anyone who is looking after any animal that eats feather and flesh.

For more information please call Vicki on 9731 5252



# Chairperson's Report

## AGM March 2009

Last year was all over the place, we only had three meetings and our AGM wasn't held until September. After the birth of my son Tyler there wasn't much energy left for the business side of FAWNA. So we all enjoyed an extra long holiday. Eventually we managed to get things up and running again, this year it's back to business as usual and we even managed to get our AGM in March (just).

Quite a lot of new members joined FAWNA over the last year and I would like to welcome you all and wish you a long association with our beautiful wildlife. Thank you to everyone who donated to FAWNA throughout the year. It all goes towards caring for our native animals.

Our emergency care cards have been updated and reprinted and Celestin is working on the Ringtail Possum care brochure. Many thanks to Iluka for the grant and Celestin Hutchinson for all her time and work she is putting into it.

I would like to thank Celestin for all her efforts investigating the possibility of a wildlife hospital. The task proved to be too difficult, costly and time consuming for FAWNA to take on at present.

Thank you to Uta Wicke for attending the Wildlife Rehabilitators Group meetings on behalf of FAWNA and to Helmut Wicke for all the work he has done on our web site over the years.

New wildlife groups the "WAWRC" and "Wildfriends" were created giving carers the opportunity to converse with and obtain information from other carers around WA. [\[Further information about these groups is given below - Ed.\]](#)

Donna Cain, Cheryl Campbell and I managed to pull the Animal Nursery at the Busselton Show together in the last week leading up to it. Many thanks to the Agricultural Society for their help setting up the compound, we couldn't have done it without you as we were very short of men on set up day. Also thank you to Robert Smith and Terri Lebrov for assisting Donna setting up early Saturday morning and helping out all day. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the day a success, they were a bit short on numbers as the article calling for helpers didn't get printed in our newsletter. All up we raised \$2,292.95, well done everyone.

We have sourced cheaper supplies and hope our members can make use of these being available. We are saving a considerable amount of money compared to the prices we used to pay.

Mabel and Peter Bell were awarded Life Membership on the 30th of November 2008, in recognition of all the years they have dedicated to caring for native wildlife. The presentation took place at the Wonnerup House Open Day/ FAWNA Christmas Party and was very heart warming and touching. Thanks to Margaret and Graham Dunn and all our supporters and helpers for making the day a success.

Many thanks to everyone who stepped forward at last year's AGM and accepted jobs. You have lightened my work load and enabled FAWNA to continue on.

Lastly, big 'thank-you's to Vicki Newman and Cheryl Campbell for their never ending help and support. Don't know what I would have done without you.

Being a new mum has taken up most of my time this year and trying to juggle motherhood and FAWNA business has not always been easy, most of the time it is my sleep that suffers and sometimes my sanity. It has been wonderful to see that every year more caring people join FAWNA wanting like we all do to do something to help our native creatures. Thank you for this opportunity to be the Chairperson of such a wonderful group and for such a worthwhile cause.

Thanking you  
Kristy Gawthrop

---

## Note from the Chairperson

I would like to thank everyone who accepted a position at the Annual General Meeting.

- Vicki Newman remains as my sidekick, Deputy Chairperson.
- Amanda Bell accepted Secretary.
- Donna Cain took on the Treasurer's position.
- Ian Watson and Jodie Deeley took on the job of Newsletter editors.
- Len Porter remains as Membership Secretary.
- Donna Cain accepted Assistant Membership Secretary.
- My partner Daniel and I were accepted as Web Site editors.
- Ben Deeley was elected as Grants Officer.
- Cheryl Campbell (surprise, surprise) took on the task of organising the Animal Nursery at the Busselton Show.
- Uta Wicke remains the representative for the Rehabilitator's Reference Group.
- Jeff Falconer accepted the position of Community Committee Representative.
- All other members present agreed to be on the committee.

Some of these positions have remained vacant for many years and it was wonderful to see so many people willing to help. Once again many thanks for taking on these jobs as it lightens my load considerably.

Kristy Gawthrop

---

# Further Information

## **WAWRC: Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc**

PO Box 232, Kalamunda, WA, 6926

email: [secretary@wawrc.org.au](mailto:secretary@wawrc.org.au)

The next WAWRC meeting will be held on Sunday 26 July at 1pm - venue yet to be confirmed. If you have any items you'd like added to the Agenda please let us know. In an effort to facilitate attendance by as many rehabilitators as possible, future meetings will continue to be held at different locations in the metropolitan area but centred around different wildlife groups. All meeting dates for the rest of the year are now on the website. Maps will be added as venues are finalised.

The website has been undergoing some major changes and is now fully operational again. Check it out at [www.wawrc.org.au](http://www.wawrc.org.au)

## **Wildfriends**

The following email was received recently and gives background information and web contact details for Wildfriends.

Greetings to all,

I am pleased to announce the creation of a new and exciting wildlife forum called WildFriends.

WildFriends is an online community for all wildlife carers - everywhere! So if you are a wildlife carer, vet, zookeeper, vet nurse, wildlife enthusiast or just somebody who wants to learn more about our wonderful wildlife - this forum is for you!

Visit WildFriends today at

<http://wildfriends.forumotion.net/login.forum?connexion>

and register to become a new member. Looking forward to chatting with you all online about our truly wonderful wildlife!

Regards,

Linda

Fourth Crossing Wildlife

[www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com](http://www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com)

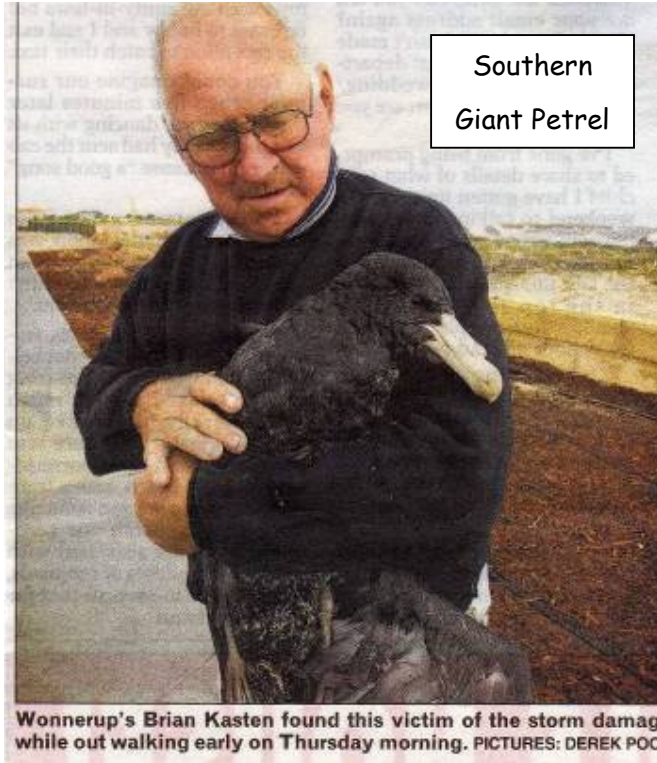
Dedicated to the conservation of Australian native animals.



# Causeway Road Depot

I'm happy to report that it's been fairly quiet these last few months. The majority of animals coming in at the moment are road casualties. Some of the birds that have been found on the side of the road have no visible injuries or broken bones but a very pronounced breast bone and usually recover after a couple of weeks of food.

A crested tern came into care just after the last report, he was found hanging by his wing entangled in fishing line at the end of the Busselton Jetty. There was bleeding from his left wing but amazingly so, he could still move it. After about three weeks Mabel's Tern came to live with him. They got on well after the first day and spent about two months eating bucket loads of fish before being taken to the mouth of the Wonnerup Estuary for release. One flew out onto the ocean, while the other one made a short flight and joined the group of Terns that live there. We stayed on the beach for quite a few hours to see if they would come back to us but both seemed to be happy to be free.



The recent storms have started bringing in the Sea birds with a Crested Tern being rescued after the first day of bad weather. The next day a small Southern Giant Petrel was rescued from the beach at Wonnerup, he was very exhausted and sadly even after managing to get some fish and electrolytes into him he passed away. I say he was small because he was about half the size of the Petrels we normally get in.



We have also started receiving joeys and some small baby birds, so if anyone is interested in caring for any of our native animals please call me on 9751 3023.

Kristy Gawthrop



# Duchess St Depot ("half open")

Our wildlife numbers are way down on previous years, but in our semi-retirement state we can cope (thanks to the help of our many carers) with this small, but interesting, load. We sometimes neglect to write everything up, however, we recorded an average of 3 to 4 "guests" (animals or birds) each week over the past few months.

Duchess Street is a handy drop-off place for local people and they are used to it being here so no doubt it will continue. With Beverly and Kristy taking on the water birds our load will lessen considerably. Peter is busy making the swan pond into a water garden - just in case we are tempted!

Mabel & Peter.

---

## Mabel's Musings

We all have funny, sad, exciting and intriguing stories to tell about wildlife. Sometimes it is the everyday happenings that give us the most pleasure. Let me share a few of mine with you.

A fledgling we fostered a year or so ago returns to visit and have a hand-out, brings its friends and suddenly you have a babble of New Holland honeyeaters all calling out for honey water.

The wattle bird that stayed from spring into January and then left until winter suddenly flies in and lands on Peter's head and inspects his ears for insects! (He has never found one yet you will be pleased to know!) Then he brings his partner along for hand-outs. The neighbours tell us that they are sharing mornings and afternoons with them again.



*Photo: Leslev Jacaues*

Then there is the wagtail who came in as a nestling and was spoiled by visiting family over Christmas. He left for fairer fields late in the summer only to reappear in early winter and is staying around to be fed a daily treat of meal worms on the steps.

Any of the above visitors can take it into their heads to fly into the sun room, sit on the kitchen windowsill and watch me preparing meals. Then, when we venture outside, they fly along with us.

They all make our day.

Mabel & Peter.

---

# Gunn Street Depot.

Autumn may be a quiet time for some, but there has been plenty of activity at Gunn Street during April and May. Mostly we have seen birds and our guest list includes:

- 3 adult magpies
- 7 bronze-wing pigeons (2 babies still in care)
- 2 baby diamond doves (still in care)
- 1 New Holland honeyeater
- 1 pink & grey galah
- 1 wattle bird
- 1 black duck
- 1 shag
- 1 tawny frogmouth



*Photo: Leslev Jacaues*

These guests have required heaps of work and some have needed round-the-clock attention (feeding and recovering from various injuries). Our success rate has been high and most of the birds brought in have now been released back into their natural environment.

We plan to release the babies that are currently still in care once they are sufficiently mature and clear of any injuries or other problems.

We have also cared for five injured adult ringtail possums. The story of one adult female is of particular interest. She was found, caught on a barbed wire fence. She was hanging from the barbs of the fence by her pouch, hanging on with desperately one hind leg. We can only imagine the pain and fear she must have endured. It was like a torture scene and if that wasn't stressful enough for this brave mother, she was carrying two pouch baby girls that each weighed only 40 grams.

The rescue was carried out one Sunday morning at 7 o'clock. It involved cutting the barbed wire fence about 10 centimetres either side of where she was trapped and bringing her into care along still attached to the short section of barbed wire. We had to hold her very carefully while her pouch was untangled and unhooked from the sharp barbs. Of course she was in need of urgent veterinary treatment as well as continuing care.

That traumatic Sunday morning was 4 months ago. Since then mother has demonstrated all her maternal skills in looking after her babies whilst she recovered from her own ordeal. We were so pleased that all three possums survived the initial entanglement with the barbed wire fence and the rescue. Over the 4 months, with lots of tender loving care, all three have recovered and they were released together recently.

Depot life is never dull, as the stories above tell. There are always phone calls; some which lead to the rescue and recovery of injured animals; some where the caller is simply complaining about wildlife in their yard and can we 'move it'.

Donna & Pete.





# Boyanup Depot.

It has been fairly quiet at Boyanup over the past few months apart from several callouts to deal with injured kangaroos. Over the past few months we have had 6 roos through here with injuries ranging from car hits to fence incidents.

Recently I had to go to an Adult female who had decided to die at a house in Gelorup. She was blind, dehydrated and undernourished but lived long enough for the owners and two young daughters to come home from a holiday. It's hard, even though its for the best she passes quickly not to join it with the kids crying. She was left to pass on her own as she would have gone before we could get her anywhere and its a lot harder with children nearby who want you to save everything or make it painless and fast - then give it a funeral!

At least it wasn't as difficult as walking through a school at night trying to find a doe seen groggy on the ground with a possible Joey in the pouch. So you have to look at the bush and at the ground just in case she wasn't just concussed and so the kids didn't come across a possible injured doe at playtime. And you guessed it, its always dark and cold with misty rain and - NO you can't find it. I am so glad the heater in my car works.

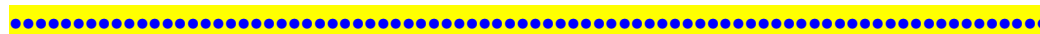
All this activity takes place to the background chatter of Charlie the corella who lives on the back veranda and chats to everyone and everything he sees. He has now been joined by a black cockatoo (Barney) who came into



care with a broken wing. This is a permanent disability so he cannot fly and will never be able to care for himself. We have decided to give him a sheltered life in captivity because his future in the real world would be impossible.

I have had a few different raptors in that have had compound fractures to the wing and had to be taken to the vet. They were types of Kites and an owl. I arrived home one day to find a large kite had been brought in with a broken wing and dazed. My daughter said she had put it up safe for me. To my great horror she had put the cardboard box - which had no lid - and just a towel over it - next to the three cages of rats. Luckily the kite was still in the box but very, very much awake and looking for all the food it could smell. It was quickly put in a cardboard box with a lid and taken to the vets.

Vicki.



## The CatBib - practical experience.

Our last edition of the newsletter gave information about the CatBib. This is a product that is being distributed by David Wood and is promoted as having been proven by Murdoch University to reduce feline predation of native fauna.

With such great promotion, we were keen to give the CatBib a try and promptly purchased one on-line at <http://www.catbib.com.au/>

We eagerly awaited the mail delivery and were pleased when it arrived complete with instructions on fitting and acclimatising Apollo to his new "uniform". He seemed quite pleased with it as you will see from the picture. A closer



look at the picture will also show how the CatBib is stained. We believe this is cat saliva mixed with natural dirt and moisture from being outdoors.

Apollo wore the CatBib for a couple of hours one afternoon and seemed to be happy. It did not stop him from walking or jumping normally. The next day he wore the CatBib all day - and that is when it started to get dirty. On the third day, about one hour after he started wearing it, we found the CatBib on the ground with the tab almost ripped off. Not having seen what happened we can only surmise that the CatBib got caught on something (a tree branch, for example) and ripped across before the Velcro fastener came undone and the CatBib came off Apollo's collar. Based on this experience, we did not feel that we could sensibly continue using the CatBib. We returned the damaged item (and received a full refund, thank you) with a detailed letter explaining the problem we had encountered.

We continue to monitor Apollo's natural predatory instincts. He is kept indoors from sunset to sunrise every night and also spends some of his day indoors. All the time he is outside he wears a collar with bells on which provides a limited warning to the birds Apollo would naturally like to chase. Whilst we are happy to try anything realistic to limit Apollo's impact on our wild life, our experience with CatBib was that it did not prove to be practical "in the field".

- Do you have any experiences with CatBib that you are willing to share?
- Are there other products you know about that could help in preserving our wildlife?  
If so, please contact the editor with any information

Ian Watson



## Cheaper Supplies!

We have managed to source these supplies to sell to our members to help save some money on the care of our native creatures.

Supplies	Price and availability	
Wombaroo Insectivore Mix	\$19.00 kg	\$9.50 ½ kg
Wombaroo Granivore Mix	Available from late June. Expected to be same price as Insectivore mix (above).	
Egg Biscuit	\$7.00 kg	\$3.50 ½ kg
Honeyeater and Lorikeet Mix	\$11.00 ½ kg	\$5.50 250 gm
Divetalact	\$19.00 kg	\$9.50 ½ kg
Biolac (Unable to get Biolac any cheaper)	\$21.00 kg. Retail price.	41 Albert Road, Bunbury [9721 6217]
	Available from South West Pets.	Home Depot Centre, Strelly Street, Busselton [9751 5700]
Kangaroo Teats	\$1.00 each	

We are currently sourcing feeding bottles and the price of heat pads and plan to let you know how we go in the next newsletter. If there is anything you use a lot of, and would like to see whether we can get it cheaper, please call.

Supplies are available from Causeway Road Depot but please call Kristy (on 9751 3023) prior to pick up to arrange a time as I am not always available (nap times etc.)



## Last, but not least . . . .

This edition of the FAWNA News introduces an important change - it is now being delivered by email to those members who have access to the internet.

The benefits to FAWNA of sending the newsletter by email are:

- Reduced photocopying (paper usage and time).
- Reduced stationery (envelope) costs
- Reduced postage

The benefits to you, the member, of sending the newsletter by email are:

- Earlier receipt of newsletter by email compared to 'snail mail'.
- Newsletter photos in full colour, instead of black and white.
- Easier storage (electronically) for future review.

If you receive the newsletter by email, you can print a copy if you wish, but by choosing not to print the document you will reduce unnecessary paper usage.

PLEASE NOTE: Members who do not have email addresses will continue to receive a paper copy by mail as before.

If you have received this newsletter in the traditional way but would be happy to join those who are now getting theirs by email, then please advise us.

We would be pleased to hear from you regarding this change, or on any other topic for discussion in the next edition.

### FAWNA Newsletter Editors

Ian Watson - email: [idwatson@netserv.net.au](mailto:idwatson@netserv.net.au)

Jodie Wood - email: [wood\\_jodie@hotmail.com](mailto:wood_jodie@hotmail.com)

---

## Dates for your diary.

Saturday 11 July: 12 noon for 12:30:

FAWNA General Meeting - see front page for details.

Saturday 12 September 2009.

FAWNA General Meeting - see next newsletter for details

Saturday 31 October 2009.

FAWNA display and animal nursery at Busselton Show.

---