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President: Jan Pilgrim

# SNAPSHOT NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2019

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## GREETINGS

Hi all

Welcome to the new TVWC for 2019-2020. You will find a list of new office bearers below and also on the members' section of the website, [tvwc.org.au](http://tvwc.org.au). We welcome the new office bearers, Jasmine, Rachael, Jo and Max and sadly wave a farewell to Lindsay. A heartfelt thank you to our outgoing office bearers for all your wonderful work.

At present, although we are barely into spring, we are experiencing workloads that are closer to midsummer with baby birds and baby possums in care and baby bats almost upon us.

In addition, northern NSW and SE Queensland are experiencing a flying fox event with greater than normal numbers of bats needing rescuing from barbed wire and being found hanging in trees and dead on the ground by the general public.

We are in special need of bird rescuers and overnight carers in Murwillumbah, bat rescuers and overnight care on the coast and koala rescuers and carers overall. If you can help, please contact the relevant coordinators. See the new list of office bearers in this Snapshot.

As I am working overtime with small coordinating, rescuing and caring, bat presidential stuff, I am having trouble Snapshot out on time (as you may have imperative that we have a Snapshot to to date with what is happening in the you the information that you need to roles. The Snapshot also plays a vital maintaining the standards of that keep the group operating well in times.

As a compromise, I will produce the two monthly basis from now on at least workload eases off in the winter and will send out urgent notices to you as needed between editions. The next Snapshot will come out in the middle of November.



mammal rescues and getting the noticed). It is keep you all up group and giving carry out your role in transparency these stressful

Snapshot on a until the the secretary

We also need anyone interested in helping Louise build the new website. Please contact me if you can help.

Jan Pilgrim  
President TVWC

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

We produced a great 40 page annual report and we would especially like to thank Jasmine for her layout and Peter for the printing. We gave out 40 copies at the AGM and here is the link to it on the website as we cannot send it out to you in this Snapshot. Here is the link if you have a login to the member's page:

[2018-19 Annual Report \( Large PDF File\)](#)

Here is a link to the annual report in google docs for your friends and relatives who don't have a log in but who would like to have a look at our annual report:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0F1wNNu6ezUblIYNF9XTW5EbTBQZEZlc0czR21TX2R0S3Aw/view?usp=sharing>

Our AGM was a great success with fantastic food and music and lucky door prizes thanks to Bill Jacobi, Emma Keep and the Surf Club, Michelle, the New Leaf Café, and all our hard working members who contributed. We had a great turnout and everyone enjoyed themselves.

## NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to: Terry Graham and William Hill. We hope you are enjoying being a member of TVWC. If you have any concerns or questions, including trouble logging in to the membership area of the website, please contact Jo Cabale.

## NEW OFFICE BEARERS

### TVWC OFFICERS 2019-20

Position	Name
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>	
President	Jan Pilgrim
Vice President	Jo Cabale
Treasurer	Peter Hurst

Secretary	Yvonne Gardiner
Committee Members	Ron Potter
	Jasmine Pereira
	Kerryn Fuller
<b>OFFICE BEARERS</b>	
Phone Coordinator	Jo Cabale
Macropod Coordinator	Corrina Lever
Bird Coordinator	Michelle Phillips
Small Mammal Coordinator	Jan Pilgrim
Reptile Coordinator	Max Walker
Bat Coordinator	Corrina Lever
Rescue & Transport Coordinator	Ron Potter
Membership Officer	Kerryn Fuller
Training Officer	Rachael Lebeter
Website Manager	Louise Bally
Records Officer	Robyn Gommers
Supplies Officer	Peter Hurst

Fundraising Officer	Kerryn Fuller
Grants	Rachael Lebeter
Facebook Administrator	Jasmine Pereira
Viber Administrator	Maya Sapir
NWC Rep.	Garry Gnapp
Alt. NWC Rep.	Jenny Weston
Catering Officer	Lewis Rassaby
Public Officer	Peter Hurst
Public Fund	Peter Hurst
Committee of Management	Jan Pilgrim Jo Cabale

A warm welcome to all our incoming office bearers and a sad farewell to all our departing office bearers. We are at present revising our dispute protocol, so did not re-elect our dispute officers, who have never once been used in recent memory. Our catering officer position was an honorary position and continues to be carried out by Lew Rassaby for the present.

## NWC NEWS

A warm welcome to Garry Gnapp, our new rep. Jenny has now become the alternative rep.

## MEETINGS

### September Committee Meeting

The new board members, Jo, Kerry and Jasmine were inducted onto our board at the September meeting, although Kerry could not attend due to the Springbrook fires which were not very far from her house, just over the border in South-East Queensland. We will miss Lindsay, Robyn and Corrina. Thanks for all your hard work.

We are still working on the new accreditation standards.

## GRANTS, FUNDING AND DONATIONS

Thanks to a very last minute effort by Rachael, we have won a new grant from the Richmond Community Grants Hub sponsored the Hon Justine Elliot, the labour Federal representative for Richmond.

The Fishing Debris bin grant has proved to be a very Tweed Shire Council Facebook Page was the have ever had. We have to the NWC as part of a the NSW gov. on wildlife



is almost completed, and popular project. A recent posting about it on their most popular posting they sent a precis of the project submission they are doing to and rubbish.

## ANIMAL NEWS

### HOTLINE NEWS

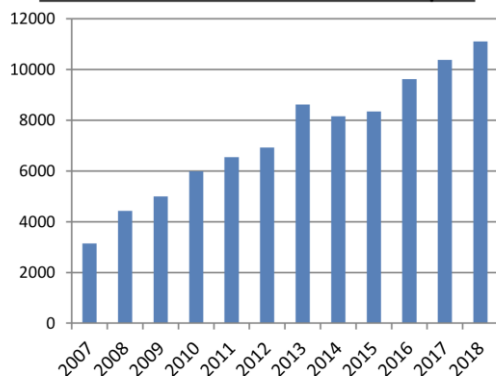
Thanks to our new phone co-ordinator Jo Cabale and thanks to Robyn for all her hard work. Lucky for Jo she is an experienced phone co-ordinator as she was recently welcomed into her new position by an unknown person who decided to harass our phonies by continually ringing the hotline and hanging up 17 times over two nights around 3am. Lucky we were able to trace his blocked number and contact the police. We have not heard from him since.

### ANIMAL RESCUES

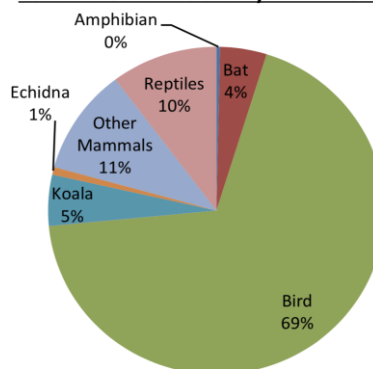
A recent piece of research from Taylor-Brown, A. et al (2019) called [The impact of human activities on Australian wildlife](#), is an interesting read. They analysed data from Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital on the Sunshine Coast, to determine the major factors driving admissions and morbidity of native animals. rates. They studied 31,626 admissions of 83 different species from 2006 to 2017. Marsupial admissions were highest (41.3%). Admissions increased over time for all species. Car strikes were the most common reason for admission (34.7%), orphaned young were 24.6%, overt signs of disease 9.7%, dog attacks (9.2%), entanglements (7.2%), and cat attacks (5.3%). Mortality rates were highest following dog attacks (72.7%) and car strikes (69.1%) and lowest in orphaned animals (22.1%). The imminent need for urgent, proactive conservation management to ameliorate the negative impacts of human activities on wildlife is clearly evident from their results.

To compare with what is going on with us, a short way down the coast. Currumbin Wildlife Hospital recently supplied us with the following data:

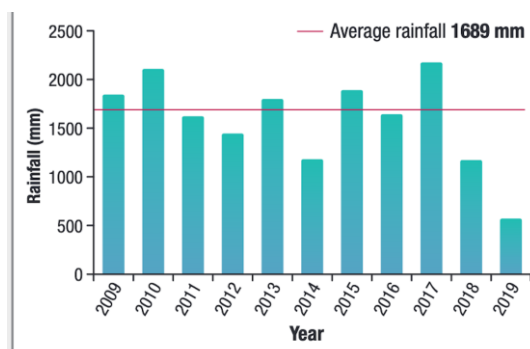
**Annual Admissions to the Wildlife Hospital**



**2018-2019 Admissions by Animal Group**



We also recently got the following Info on rainfall from the council and here also are our ff rescues from the last three years show a correlation between decreasing rainfall average and ff rescues.



Total annual rainfall, Murwillumbah 2009 – 2019.



## BIRDS

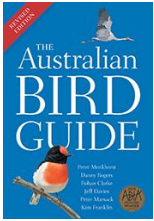
**WE NEED CARERS AND RESCUERS AROUND MURBAH.**

This is what is happening in the world of birds at the moment:

- Bird training with Michelle has just happened
- New aviary, heat pads, rescue food, mealworm source and new bollards. Also, cages from CWH thanks to the recent bushfire appeal and quick work from Michelle
- A Bird book identification guide bargain
- Short tailed shearwaters returning to Bass Strait
- The arrival of the eastern koel and the channel billed cuckoo

- Babies need re-uniting
- Curlew babies are hatching
- Magpies are swooping
- Mary is looking for new rescuers and new rescue techniques

### Bird Book for sale



**Revised Edition Peter Menkhorst, Danny Rogers, Rohan Clarke, Jeff Davies, Peter Marsack, Kim Franklin.** Paperback - August 2019 - AU \$49.99

With specially commissioned paintings of over 900 species, *The Australian Bird Guide* is the most comprehensive and beautifully illustrated field guide to Australian birds ever seen.

**The CSIRO will give us a special price of \$35.00 for this amazing book if we order enough copies. Please contact Peter, our treasurer, to put your name down to get this great bargain.**

### Babies need re-uniting



Baby lorikeets now in care with Cheryl



A reuniting stick from Bronwyn

Reuniting is a fine art but much the best outcome for the babies concerned. For more information, contact Michelle.

### Bush Stone-Curlews Update

We recently had a meeting with the council in order to pool our resources to improve the survival rate of the Curlews in the shire over the coming years. Michelle was able to



purchase bollards to protect the Curlew babies who hatched in a church car park at Banora Point. These bollards can now be used on private land in the future where the council cannot act. The search is on for a family of Curlews in Terranora. They vanished after they were called in and have still not been found even after a letter drop was organised by Robyn and carried out in the area by Bronwyn.



Magpies are swooping at this time of year.

- Only male magpies swoop and less than 10% of them swoop
- They only do it when the chicks are in the nest (a few weeks in the year)
- They are selective about who they swoop
- They don't like cyclists
- Wear a helmet and sunglasses
- Avoid the area
- Cross to the other side of the road
- Don't turn your back
- Befriend by occasionally feeding them mince throughout the year (but not too often as it isn't good for them)

## BATS

- Trial of a new cooling technology
- Bat training
- New overnight care cages

- Microbat meeting

### Trial for first autonomous flying-fox cooling technology

Sunshine Coast Council officers have recently installed a new flying-fox Heat Stress Autonomous Response Unit which will be trialled over the coming summer season, and could be implemented across Australia. It uses solar-powered, Wi-Fi-connected misting technology is integrated into the ff roost at Landsborough to cool down bats in the event of a heat wave.

This technology was developed in response to the recent extreme heat wave in Cairns last summer which resulted in the deaths of more than 23,000 spectacled flying foxes, equating to a loss of nearly one-third of the species in Australia. Following the trial, council will investigate the opportunity to install additional heat stress units at other known roosting sites.

Bat overnight care training has been held and overnight care cages were purchased in response to the recent spate of rescues caused by chronic starvation and dehydration of the flying foxes.

### Bat Meeting

We recently had a meeting with Anita, a PhD candidate from Banora Point who is an international expert on microbats to talk about her specialty, tube-nosed bats, as we have one in care at the moment.

### REPTILES

Max Walker is now the  
not a photo of Max. Guess

We will miss Cameron who  
last few years.



new reptile coordinator (this is  
who?)

has filled the position over the

## SMALL MAMMALS

- Possum Training
- Echidnas
- Koalas

### Possum Training

As we have a greater number of babies in care than usual, I will be doing a possum care training session asap. If you can look after possums at home, that is - you can feed five hourly and you have a relatively quiet space, email me (Jan) and I will conduct a hands on training session in Murwillumbah in the next week or two.

### Echidnas

We have had a huge increase in numbers of echidnas in care this year. Echidnas get pregnant in mid July usually, shortly after arousal from hibernation. After a pregnancy of about 3 weeks the female lays a single egg into her pouch that hatches after 10-11 days. Puggles begin to outgrow **the** pouch and grow spines when they're about 7 weeks old, around September. **The young echidna is** then **put** in a nursery **burrow** where it spends about five months, with **the** mother returning only about every five to 10 days to feed it. From now on, we need to be very sure that we put our echidnas back where they came from as soon as possible.

### Koalas

#### I Spy Koala

I Spy Koala is a free app that has recently been released by the NSW government. It allows community members to record their sightings of koalas in the wild. Sighting reports will be directly fed into the BioNet Atlas, the NSW repository for biodiversity data, and will contribute to inform conservation management. Data collected with the app will be publicly accessible through the Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) portal. Visit the [Apple](#) or [Google](#) app stores to download the I Spy Koala app

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### New Chlamydia Test

Koalas can now be tested for chlamydia bacteria within 30 minutes. Previously, chlamydia testing had taken seven days, putting crucial antibiotic care on hold, stretching koala care resources and resulting in koalas with mild cases of infection not being detected and released. The breakthrough was announced at the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. The portable DNA testing unit, about the size of a modem, is now being used at the Moggill Koala Hospital, by the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital and by Australia Zoo. University of Queensland researcher Lyndal Hulse developed the treatment and had trialed it with 100 per cent accuracy at the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. Eleven years ago the hospital admitted 28 koalas and this year it will be more than 500. Plans for a wider vaccination of wild koalas are under way.

#### New Pottsville Koala Facility

The NSW state government has announced funding of \$370,000 to construct a koala facility on land acquired at Pottsville in 2018. Currumbin Wildlife Hospital (CWH) identified a need for a facility where koalas can be held for 30 days to facilitate the trial use of a chlamydia vaccine. There is also scope at this location to establish some of the food tree plantation requirements required. It is envisaged that such a facility will support and complement existing koala rehabilitation actions, groups and facilities. Currently, the more than 200 koalas from northern NSW are treated at CWH and are unable to be vaccinated due to the lack of a suitable facility. The funding has been provided in association with the NSW koala strategy and the Stronger Country Communities Fund. The project plan includes a considerable lead time prior to detailed design, planning approvals and commencement so that the tenure arrangements can be resolved.

#### Team Koala Tweed Koala Fun Day



## WHAT'S COMING UP

### NEXT ORIENTATION

### NEXT GENERAL MEETING

### TRAINING

### CALENDAR

Date	Group	Workshop	Location	Time
September				

Sunday	1st	Wildcare	Possum (Basic)	Nerang	9:30am - 4:00pm
Saturday	7th	WIRES NR	Small Mammals (Echidna, Platypus, Bandicoot, Rats, Quoll etc)	Lismore : Southern Cross Uni Campus	8:30am - 5:00pm
Saturday	7th	Wildcare	Native Birds (Basic)	Nerang	9:30am - 3:00pm
Sunday	8th	Wildcare	Macropods	Nerang	9:30am - 2:30pm
Sunday	15th	Bats Qld	Orphan Flying Fox	Upper Coomera (Community Centre – Multi-Purpose Rm 2)	9.30 – all day
Saturday	21th	Wildcare	Native Birds (Babies)	Nerang	9:30am - 3:00pm
Sunday	22nd	Wildcare	Gliders	Nerang	9:30am - 4:00pm
Saturday	28th	Wildcare	Orphaned Mammals (Basic)	Nerang	9:30am - 4:00pm
Sunday	29th	Wildcare	Microbats	Brisbane	9:30am - 4:00pm

### October

Sunday	13th	Wildcare	Orient/Rescue/1st Aid	Wacol	9.00am - 4:00pm
Saturday	19th	WIRES NR	Macropod : ID & Caring	Lismore : Southern Cross Uni Campus	8:30am - 5:00pm
Saturday	26th	Wildcare	B'coots/Rod/Sm Marsup	Nerang	9.30am - 2.00pm
Sunday	27th	Wildcare	Habitat & Native Plant ID	Gold Coast Hinterland	9:30am - 4:00pm
TBA	TBA	TVWC	Snake ID & Handling	Crabbes Creek Hall (Crabbes Crk Rd, Crabbes Crk)	9.00am - 3:00pm

### November

Sunday	3rd	TVWC	Orientation	Murw Community Centre ( <u>Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah</u> )	9:00am - 1:00pm
Saturday	9th	Wildcare	Native Birds (Basic)	Wacol	9:30am - 3:00pm
Saturday & Sunday	16th 17th	WIRES NR	Possum & Glider : ID & Caring	Lismore : Southern Cross Uni Campus	8:30am – 4:30pm
Sunday	17th	Wildcare	Orphaned Mammals (Basic)	Wacol	9:30am - 4:00pm
Sunday	17th	TVWC	Rescue & Transport (Basic)	Murw Community Centre ( <u>Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah</u> )	9:00am - 3:30pm
TBA	TBA	TVWC	Reptile Rehab & 1st Aid	Crabbes Creek Hall (Crabbes Crk Rd, Crabbes Crk)	9.00am - 3:00pm

### December

Sunday	1st	Wildcare	Orient/Rescue/1st Aid	Upper Coomera	9.00am - 4:00pm
Saturday	7th	TVWC	General Meeting + Xmas PARTY !!!	Murw Community Centre ( <u>Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah</u> )	1:00pm - 4:00pm

TVWC	TVWC members Non-members	FREE \$20	<b>Bookings:</b>
Bats Qld	BQ members Non-members	FREE Membership \$10/yr	<b>Bookings:</b> secretary@batsqld.org.au
Wildcare	Wildcare members	FREE	<b>Bookings:</b> Cathy



	Non-members	\$20 full day, \$10 half day	education@wildcare.org.au
WIRES NR	TVWC members	1 day workshop = \$45 2 day workshop = \$65 Both incl lunch & notes	<b>Bookings :</b> Sue Ulyatt <a href="mailto:wiresnr@wiresnr.org">wiresnr@wiresnr.org</a>
NRWC	TVWC members	\$20	<b>Bookings:</b> Kate Geary <a href="mailto:traing@wildlifecarers.com">traing@wildlifecarers.com</a>

Training dates and venues may be altered due to uncontrollable circumstances – please consult Viber and the latest Snapshot for updates.

**Phone training** and **Record training** Contact: Jo Cabale. See Office Bearers List

Training dates and venues may be altered due to unforeseen circumstances – please check Viber and the latest Snapshot for updates. **TVWC Workshops** are at Murwillumbah Community Centre off Nullum Road near the netball courts.

## CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

### SPRING UPDATE

#### Recheck Admission Forms

We will ask carers to complete this form when an animal comes back for a recheck. Feel free to print the form off and complete it at home to save time when you arrive at the hospital. It's especially important that we get this information where the carer is not the person transporting the animal to the hospital. Please give as much detail as possible on the form, as this will help achieve the best possible outcome for the animal.

#### Leaving Cages/Baskets at the Hospital

Where possible, the hospital prefers that transport cages or baskets are not left at the hospital due to a lack of storage space. However, for some species, such as bats and koalas, it is preferred that the transport carrier is left at the hospital. If you do need to leave your carrier at the hospital, please ensure it's clearly labelled with your name and phone number, and try to collect within a couple of days. Please try not to leave any linen in the carrier that you specifically require back as it sometimes can be inadvertently placed through the hospital laundry. Using towels as much as possible are a good option as we can easily replace those with others if required.

#### Collecting Foster Patients From the Hospital

Please call ahead when you are coming to collect a foster patient. This will allow us to get the patient ready and prepare its medications etc., which will hopefully minimise wait times

for you. The best time to collect foster patients is between 10am and 3pm, where staff will have more time to hand-over to you.

### **Post-mortems**

Please be aware that while we are happy to carry out post-mortem exams on deceased animals, we may not always have time to do so, as live animals will always take priority. Also, please understand that post-mortems are often inconclusive. We can look for signs of trauma in deceased animals which would indicate an event (such as a vehicle hit) has caused injury leading to death. We can also assess the body condition of the animal, where an animal in good condition is likely to have succumbed to an acute event, while an animal in poor condition is likely to have been unwell for some time.

Chronic conditions are very difficult to diagnose on post-mortem exams. In cases of large numbers, or clusters of deceased animals, Biosecurity may be willing to test the bodies, but even then, it's often inconclusive. In cases of suspected poisoning, Biosecurity would need to know specifically what poison to test for to get a positive diagnosis. So, while we are happy to accept deceased animals for post-mortem, please don't be offended if it doesn't occur, or if it doesn't establish a cause of death.

### **Calling the Hospital for Outcomes**

During spring and summer, please wait until the following day to call for patient outcomes, as the vet notes are often not typed up until late in the day. Please also try to call after 9am, as the first hour of the day can be very hectic at the hospital.

## **COPIES OF DOCUMENTS/CONTACT LISTS**

All members may access Minutes of Committee and General Meetings as well as contacts of committee members. Please contact Secretary via [committee@tvwc.org.au](mailto:committee@tvwc.org.au)

## **FEEDBACK**

If you have anything you would like to say about the group, good bad or indifferent, please call Jan or Yvonne.

- *Contact numbers for office bearers can be found on the members' page of our website, or call the hotline and leave a message.*

Thanks to our interim secretary, Susan Brookes for her help in compiling this Snapshot while Yvonne is away having the time of her life in Canada.