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# SNAPSHOT NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST 2019

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### GREETINGS

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING .....	3
NEW MEMBERS .....	3
FACEBOOK AND TWEED VALLEY WEEKLY .....	3
ANNUAL REPORT .....	3
MEETINGS.....	4
NWC NEWS.....	4
GRANTS, FUNDING AND DONATIONS .....	5
AWARDS.....	6
STATISTICS.....	6
ANIMAL NEWS.....	7
ANIMAL RESCUE AND CARE .....	7
BATS .....	9
BIRDS.....	9
REPTILES .....	10
MAMMALS .....	10
WHAT'S COMING UP.....	11

<b>OTHER EDUCATIONAL TALKS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>NEXT ORIENTATION .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>TRAINING .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CALENDAR .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>COPIES OF DOCUMENTS/CONTACT LISTS .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>FEEDBACK.....</b>	<b>14</b>

Hi All

Sorry about the lateness of the Snapshot. I have experienced a series of difficult events including ongoing rescues due to the mildness of the winter, four babies unexpectedly in care for the same reason, flu and a major catastrophic computer crash and then a blackout that disabled the internet modem just when the annual reports were due.

Hopefully, we can change the way we produce the Snapshot in future so it won't happen again. If you would like to help, please contact Jan or Yvonne.

You all would have heard that one million wildlife species are threatened with extinction worldwide according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) first global assessment that was recently released by the United Nations.

The Threatened Species' Hub in Australia claims that the Threatened Bird Index is now showing that the Australian threatened bird populations have dropped by half in 30 years on average.

According to the hub, saving wildlife needs to become a serious factor in all decision-making at all levels of government and industry. Not just a consideration; not just a number to be reported upon – something that drives the decisions that are made. And those decisions must be science-based. This means that not just our rescues and caring but also our statistics have become vitally important as they can be used as a basis for factual knowledge about what is happening in the community to our wildlife. This is why our records have expanded to log rescues and to include the sighting of dead animals and birds.

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

### NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to: Michelle Quilkey, Priska Sussli and Mary Louise Coupereid.

We hope you are enjoying being a member of TVWC.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Jo on [0429 447 219](tel:0429447219), Ron on [0491 084 813](tel:0491084813) or Robyn on [0423 167 344](tel:0423167344).

If you have trouble logging in, please contact our website officer Louise on [0406 217 804](tel:0406217804).

### FACEBOOK AND TWEED VALLEY WEEKLY

Our Facebook page continues to be a great success, as does the fortnightly column in the Tweed Weekly newspaper. Please contact Rachael on [0407 906 955](tel:0407906955) for the column or Jasmine on [0422 019 095](tel:0422019095) for Facebook if you have any interesting stories, photos or videos. Please consider taking good quality photos or videos of interesting rescues, caring, releasing, etc.

### ANNUAL REPORT

All members will soon receive a copy of the TVWC annual report. This document highlights the work of our rescuers, transporters, carers and volunteers in other roles, and contains some sobering statistics.

Please take the time to read the report to be better informed about our group and the fine work we do. Many thanks to the co-ordinators and other officer bearers for their contributions.

## MEETINGS

Please RSVP to either Jan or Yvonne for catering purposes

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 1pm – 4pm  
at **Murwillumbah Community Centre**

Nullum St Murwillumbah

It has been a busy couple of months. We have had many in-group meetings, including two phonies meetings, co-ordinators' meetings and also website, funding and annual report meetings. We have had educational meetings with Banora Point Uniting Church, two Tweed View clubs, senior citizens, Lindisfarne High School, an aged care home in Murwillumbah, kindergartens in Kingscliff and a lawyers' group on the Gold Coast.

Glenn Kvassay gave a fascinating talk at the last General Meeting on his methods of raising all kinds of animal food. We are very lucky to have him as a local resident. All carers who require meal worms, crickets, beetles and such like should talk to their co-ordinators. Check out his website: [wildlifehub.com](http://wildlifehub.com) or call him on **0417 729 509**.

We have also had a meeting with the Tweed Shire Council regarding the endangered species of the Tweed Shire. Ron and Luke were asked to attend the Marine Reptiles and Turtles Policy meeting with the OEH at Port Macquarie. Robyn attended a meeting in Sydney to discuss the new record requirements of the NPWS.

One of our committee meetings was cancelled but the other two have been occupied with accreditation matters. Thanks to Lisa who has volunteered to help with writing our new Health and Safety Policy.

## NWC NEWS

Our rep Jenny Weston is now in Sydney at their AGM. It has been a shocking time with the dissolution of the OEH. We have had no funding from this year. Our licence has been automatically renewed until June next year despite the imposition of an accreditation system which entails a rewriting of policies such as animals in permanent care and the handling of feral animals.

## GRANTS, FUNDING AND DONATIONS

There are three ways to donate to Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers:

1. Bank deposit into account BSB: 112 879 Account number: 127 579 224
2. Go to our website [tvwc.org.au](http://tvwc.org.au) and use the DONATE Button.
3. Go to our website [tvwc.org.au](http://tvwc.org.au) and use the PAYPAL Button.

A tax receipt will be issued for all donations received.

All donations will be used to care for and release wildlife that come into our care.

Both the tackle bin project grant and the koala rescue grant are almost acquitted. A recent post on the Tweed Council link resulted in a great response from the locals and an interest in applying the project from areas around Australia, including Darwin, with the ABC radio in that area wanting to interview Josh.

There are four grants open at the moment and these are among the very few that are tailored for us.

If you are a rescuer, carer, co-ordinator or simply a member, please get in touch with Jan, Yvonne or Rachael, ASAP, and we will arrange a meeting to enable YOU to apply or WE will apply for one of these grants for you.

They are:

- Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) grants

The 2020 grants program offers small grants from \$2,000–\$10,000 with an average grant of \$4,000. Download the guidelines from [www.nrcf.org.au](http://www.nrcf.org.au). The Grant Round closes at midnight on Tuesday 27th August.

- The ITV Tweed Community Initiative Fund  
Applications close 29th September 2019. Grants of up to \$2,500 each are available.  
[https://www.itv.com/data/documents/pdf/ITV\\_Communitygrant\\_INITIAL.pdf](https://www.itv.com/data/documents/pdf/ITV_Communitygrant_INITIAL.pdf)
- The Communities Environment Program  
This requires an EOI through Justine Elliot and is due early in September

The Richmond Communities Environment Program will deliver funding to a maximum of 20 projects that are designed to deliver positive environmental and social outcomes for the North Coast. Local community groups, incorporated not-for-profits, incorporated trustees, local schools and local governments are all invited to apply via an Expression of Interest form.

Examples of eligible projects may include activities that: protect or enhance the natural environment and support the recovery of native species; reduce threats and risks to the natural environment; reduce waste and litter; encourage recycling; improve carbon sequestration and activities that build community knowledge about their local environment.

Eligible activities may include tree planting, litter clean-up events, community workshops, and community-based recycling initiatives. Grant funding is available for successful applicants from \$2,500 up to a maximum of \$20,000. Additional cash and/or in-kind contributions towards the project costs are strongly encouraged but not obligatory. Expressions of Interest close Tuesday 10th September 2019 and must be submitted via Justine Elliot's office. Information about whether your local organisation is eligible to apply can be found online [HERE](#)

**More Info**

- The Wettenhall Small Environmental Grant Scheme

\*\*\* **NOW OPEN** \*\*\*

**Wettenhall Environment Trust  
Small Environmental Grant Scheme**



Do you have a project that needs funding around flora and fauna conservation and/or threatened mammal conservation?

These projects should involve any of the following:

- **monitoring, recording and sharing data**
- **delivering community education**
- **providing community capacity building (e.g. training)**
- **research and science**

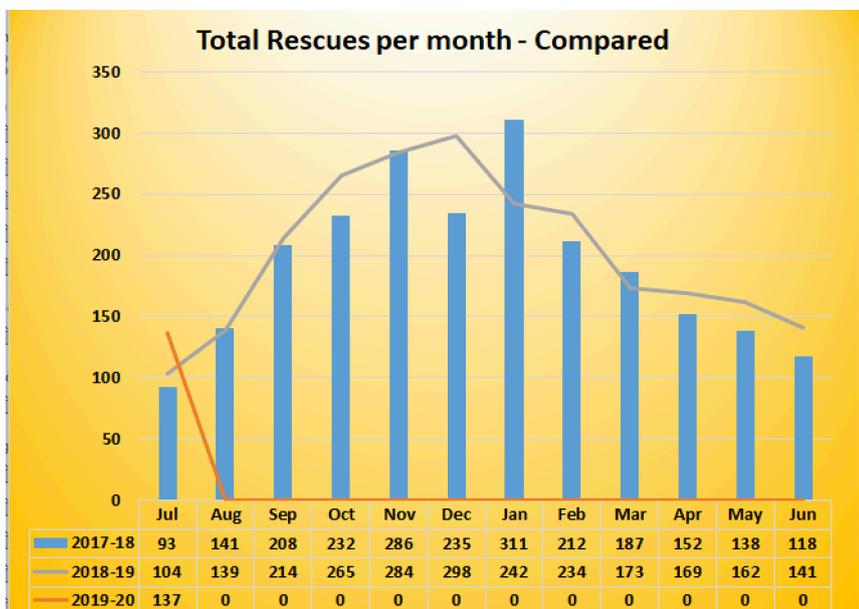
The Norman Wettenhall Foundation's Small Environmental Grant Scheme grant round for November is now open!

**Note:** There are **only opening dates, no closing dates**. The round closes when a suitable number of applications and spread of applications have been received.

Click here to find out more: [Norman Wettenhall Foundation](#)

**STATISTICS**

The following chart from Robyn compares the number of rescues in July over the last three years. We have just experienced the hottest July on record across the globe.



## AWARDS

Robyn presented some fascinating statistics and handed out worthy awards at our last general meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Membership as of that date was 141. A total of 108 members had completed rescue and transport training and more than 90 had performed at least one rescue.

Our participation rate for our members is soaring which augurs well for what is shaping up to be a very busy season. As far as rescues go, Luke went “beyond the call of duty” to extricate a magpie lark from a wall cavity in April at a Tweed Heads café. Luke broke a hole in the 3-4m high wall ... then repaired the top of the wall so no birds would fall into the cavity again. Now that’s dedication!!

## ANIMAL NEWS

### ANIMAL RESCUE AND CARE



Rescue and transport has really hotted up. If you are interested in helping Ron with taking our boat out around Tweed Heads, please ring him on **0491 084 813**.

## National Wildlife Biosecurity Guidelines for Australia

**What is Biosecurity?** Biosecurity is the management of risks to the economy, the environment and the community of pests and diseases entering, emerging, establishing or spreading. It can be explained as the set of precautions taken to minimise the risk of spreading or introducing a pest or infectious disease. There are wildlife biosecurity obligations under Australian legislation.

**Everyone who works with, or interacts with, wildlife has a role to play in wildlife biosecurity.**

**Lapses in wildlife biosecurity can have serious or catastrophic consequences for individuals, populations, species and ecosystems.** Australian bat lyssavirus transmission to a human, via a bite from an infected bat, can result in death. Chytrid fungus infection has resulted in catastrophic declines (and in some cases extinctions) of numerous amphibian species throughout the world. Salmonella infections (acquired from pet reptiles) can cause significant disease and sometimes death in children.

**Good biosecurity helps to keep wildlife, people and domestic animals safe and healthy by minimising the impacts of disease on individual animals and wildlife populations.**

**Understanding and managing risk is the key to good biosecurity.** Although it may not always be possible to eliminate risk when working with wildlife, everyone should work to an agreed acceptable level of risk.

The general principles of disease risk management in humans and domestic animals can be applied to managing disease risk associated with wildlife. In the absence of information on disease risk, the precautionary principle should be applied.

**Everyone should implement basic biosecurity practices for all contact with wildlife, regardless of the animal's species, age, health or perceived disease risk.** Although it may not always be possible to eliminate risk when working with wildlife, everyone should work to an agreed acceptable level of risk. In some cases, where risks are greater, advanced biosecurity practices will be required.

**Good wildlife biosecurity includes:**

- risk assessment & management
- appropriate work practices
- hygiene
- isolation
- diagnosis & treatment of sick or diseased individuals
- surveillance & monitoring for disease in wildlife populations.

The National Wildlife Biosecurity Guidelines have been developed to assist all people who work with wildlife and they acknowledge the wide range of circumstances under which people work and interact with wildlife in Australia and can be tailored by wildlife workers to suit their individual circumstances.

**Anyone who suspects or knows that an emergency animal disease is occurring in wildlife should contact the National Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.**

The National Wildlife Biosecurity Guidelines are a cooperative initiative between Wildlife Health Australia (WHA), and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources on behalf of all who work with Australian wildlife and are available as a PDF at

[www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Portals/0/Documents/ProgramProjects/National\\_Wildlife\\_Biosecurity\\_Guidelines.PDF](http://www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Portals/0/Documents/ProgramProjects/National_Wildlife_Biosecurity_Guidelines.PDF)

## BATS

A female black-headed flying-fox miscarried during a recent rescue. Certain rules apply for this situation, so please contact Corrina for more info.

We have an endangered Eastern Tube-nosed Bat in care with Daen. She always needs help to care for her permanent care bats as well so please contact her if you can help or you want to find out what is entailed in caring for these magical animals. There is a great lecture on microbats at Lismore university coming up on the 31<sup>st</sup> August if you are interested.

## BIRDS

Everything is happening right now with the birds. Michelle has already started in-house training, with 'Returning baby birds to the wild'. You can use natural materials by buying cane baskets at op shops and using natural twine. This is important because we do not want to put anything plastic into the environment, especially as the plastic buckets that we often use are often left in trees and bushes.

Michelle also recommends keeping an umbrella in your car for protection against swooping birds like magpies and plovers who are protecting their nests but are in need of rescue.

The Australian Citizen Science Association Brush Turkeys in The 'Burbs' App passed 600 sightings! As it is now mating season for them as well, it is the perfect time to download this app and help PhD student Matthew Hall from University of Sydney to track these iconic bird's habits and range. Check out this map! The BrushTurkeys App is created by SPOTTERON and is available on the Android and Apple stores. Please click on this link below:

[get it...](#)



Michelle and Corrina camped out in Pottsville in June to release six bush-stone curlews. It is hoped that this and subsequent releases will help the fragile species to recovery. The birds came into care for a variety of reasons. Michelle has been working closely with the Tweed Shire Council as they monitor the chick rearing activities of bush-stone curlews in the local area. They have developed a tagging system which has been very useful in caring for these endangered birds.

Globally important mudflats in the Yellow Sea have recently been awarded World Heritage listing, protecting hundreds of thousands of migratory shorebirds! These mudflats have suffered decades of over-development, causing shorebird populations to crash. The World Heritage listing will allow 36 species of migratory shorebirds, many of which are globally threatened by extinction, to rest and refuel during their epic journey between Australia and the Arctic.

It's a tragic fact that the number of Critically Endangered Eastern Curlews visiting Australia has declined by more than 80 per cent in the last 30 years. As a World Heritage site, the refuelling grounds along the Chinese coastline will now be permanently protected for Bar-tailed Godwits, Eastern Curlews and many other species – halting the destruction of habitat that has ravaged the Yellow Sea's wetlands for decades.

## REPTILES

Thanks to Sue Johnson for her donation to the group of her reptile cages and equipment.

## MAMMALS

### *Koala wet bottom*



The photo on the left shows what is known as 'dirty bottom' or 'wet bottom'. The bottom has a very dark rust coloured staining on it and is wet and matted. This is a koala who is not well and needs veterinary treatment immediately for Chlamydial Cystitis which is a thickening of the bladder wall causing the urine to leak from the bladder. It is extremely painful and if attended to soon enough is able to be treated. According to CWH, their koala admissions are up by 70% this year. If you would like to help with koala rescue and care, you must join Friends of the Koala in Lismore by contacting Membership Officer Sharon Pratten on 0419 247 012 and you can also get hands-on experience by contacting Jenny Graham who needs help looking

after koalas.

You can also visit a new NSW Koala Country website at [koala.nsw.gov.au](http://koala.nsw.gov.au). This new community-focused site has just been launched to promote and celebrate koala conservation across NSW. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the site, please contact the Office of Environment and Heritage at [koala.country@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:koala.country@environment.nsw.gov.au).

They have launched a new online community wildlife survey. We are asking people across New South Wales to share their knowledge of local wildlife – including koalas. They would like to know where you have seen 10 specific species of animals over the last two years across NSW by completing this survey at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlife-survey](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlife-survey). It takes 10 to 20 minutes to complete. Even if you have not seen any of the animals, there are other questions in the survey where your knowledge helps.

The Community Wildlife Survey is being funded as part of the [NSW Koala Strategy](#). Data from the survey can help identify sites for priority action under the NSW Koala Strategy as well as forming part of koala monitoring across the State.

## WHAT'S COMING UP

### OTHER EDUCATIONAL TALKS

We will be giving a talk to the SES in September.

### NEXT ORIENTATION

This is an introduction to the work TVWC does, so tell someone you know who is interested in helping sick, orphaned or injured wildlife. Orientation day is Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, from 9am to 1pm at the Murwillumbah Community Centre, Nullum St, Murwillumbah.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are invited to join us for lunch, refreshments (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), music and lucky door prizes. This is a chance for us to catch up, reflect on the past year and vote for our office bearers for the year ahead.

Please RSVP to either Jan or Yvonne for catering purposes

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 1pm – 4pm  
at Murwillumbah Community Centre

Nullum St Murwillumbah

## TRAINING & CALENDAR

Date		Group	Workshop	Location	Time
<b>August</b>					
Saturday	31st	TVWC	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	Murw Community Centre (Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah)	1:00pm - 4:00pm
Saturday	31st	NRWC & Wires	<b>Microbats (Racheal Lyons)</b>	TBA	TBA

Saturday	31st	Wildcare	Orient/Rescue/1st Aid	Nerang	9.00am - 4:00pm
<b>September</b>					
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
Sunday	15th	NRWC	Birds 101	Wollongbar (DPI, 1243 Bruxner Highway)	9:30am – 3.00pm
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
<b>October</b>					
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
<b>November</b>					
Sunday	3rd	TVWC	Orientation	Murw Community Centre (Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah)	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 (Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah)	9:00am - 3:30pm
TBA	TBA	TVWC	Reptile Rehab & 1st Aid	Crabbes Creek Hall (Crabbes Crk Rd, Crabbes Crk)	9.00am - 3:00pm
<b>December</b>					
Sunday	1st	Wildcare	Orient/Rescue/1st Aid	Upper Coomera	9.00am - 4:00pm
Saturday	7th	TVWC	General Meeting + Xmas PARTY !!!	Murw Community Centre (Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah)	1:00pm - 4:00pm

**Phone training** – by appointment. Contact : Robyn 0423 167344  
[robyn@ozwildlife.com](mailto:robyn@ozwildlife.com)

**Record training** – Group, Individual and Regional Area trainings by appointment.

Contact : Robyn 0423 167344 [robyn@ozwildlife.com](mailto:robyn@ozwildlife.com)

TVWC	TVWC members Non-members	FREE \$20	<b>Bookings:</b> Robyn <a href="mailto:robyn@ozwildlife.com">robyn@ozwildlife.com</a>
Bats Qld	BQ members Non-members	FREE Membership \$10/yr	<b>Bookings:</b> <a href="mailto:secretary@batsqld.org.au">secretary@batsqld.org.au</a>
Wildcare	Wildcare members Non-members	FREE \$20 full day, \$10 half day	<b>Bookings:</b> Cathy <a href="mailto:education@wildcare.org.au">education@wildcare.org.au</a>
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 unforeseen circumstances – please check Viber and the latest Snapshot for updates.

If you are interested in hands-on possum training, please send expressions of interest to Jan on 0410 475 716.

TVWC Workshops are at Murwillumbah Community Centre (Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah, near the netball courts)

*From Wildcare*

### **Workshop Etiquette**

Unfortunately, it is necessary to remind some members of etiquette when booking and attending Wildcare training workshops.

There is a lot of preparation that goes into each and every one of the Wildcare workshops - from developing the education calendar, booking venues, processing registrations, updating our training database, preparing and emailing Certificates of Attendance through to developing training manuals and resources, printing and binding manuals as well as the actual delivery of the workshops by species co-ordinators.

All of our Wildcare trainers, as well as the Wildcare Management Committee, take great pride in our education program and I know that most Wildcare members sincerely appreciate the effort that goes into these workshops.

Sadly though, some members are disregarding even the most basic of common courtesies when booking in and attending training workshops. Although they are thankfully very much in the minority, we would ask that you please remember the following points.

- If your circumstances change and you can no longer attend a workshop - please cancel your registration via email or text as soon as possible. We all understand that last-minute things come up but most workshops have a waiting list of keen members

wishing to attend. Sadly, there have been a high number of incidents recently where this has occurred and other members on a waiting list have missed out on attending a workshop. Members who fail to attend a workshop without sending an apology are likely to have future workshop registrations cancelled.

- Please ensure that you register for each workshop. Some members have turned up to workshops even after being informed that the workshop was full and there was a waiting list. This just isn't fair to every other member that has followed the usual process.
- You are expected to stay for the entire duration of the training. If you know that you are going to be late, you should contact the trainer and discuss this with them. The same applies if you need to leave early. If you are going to miss more than a very small portion of the workshop, you will not receive credit for attending so it may be more appropriate to book in for a date where you can stay for the entire duration. Sadly, some members have felt that it is okay to arrive very late or leave several hours early. Some members have even left a workshop at lunchtime and did not return without any discussion with the trainer.
- Please remember that the training manuals are provided only to those who attend the training workshops. They are not to be distributed to any other person without the express permission of Wildcare and the trainer. There have been instances where our manuals have been distributed to others without permission.

We have worked extremely hard in Wildcare to be in a position whereby we can offer training to all of our volunteers at no cost. Most wildlife care groups charge their members to attend training workshops but we have always believed that volunteer training should be provided free of charge. We also work hard to secure funding to cover specialised training workshops, some of which cost Wildcare \$500-\$900 per workshop in out-of-pocket expenses. We would hate to get to the point where members are expected to pay a fee to attend a workshop.

To those members (and thankfully they are in the majority) who eagerly attend and participate in the Wildcare training workshops, thank you. It is so encouraging to see such high attendances at workshops. We know that most members do appreciate the amount of effort that goes into the Wildcare education program and it is sad that these issues have to be raised.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Wildcare Education Team at [education@wildcare.org.au](mailto:education@wildcare.org.au).

## 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 on **0410 475 716** or Yvonne on **0411 622 720**.