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SNAPSHOT NEWSLETTER – MARCH/APRIL 2019

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GREETINGS

Hi everybody

Sorry for the delay with this Snapshot. I have no idea where March went. Some family birthdays, a bit of sickness, and lots of house renovating got in the way! Also, we have had unprecedented numbers of birds and animals coming into care. Our Hotline has been busy over the longest, hottest season on record and we are still getting hot, busy days. You might notice this newsletter is all about the effects of the recent heat on the wildlife. It's hard to ignore.

Here's hoping that things will get better from here on, especially with all our great new members. Hope this photo of a rainbow near Tyalgum cheers you up.

You will notice that there is a lot of asking for help in this Snapshot ... please help out if you can.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to:

Graeme Cooney

Tina Wilson

Susan Brookes

Marama Hopkins

We hope you are enjoying being a member of TVWC. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Tanina on 0431 369 637, Ron on 0491 084 813 or Robyn on 0423 167 344. If you have trouble logging in, please contact Membership Officer Tanina Millis via email ilovethebigtree@hotmail.com.

Goodbye to Sharyn, we have loved working with you. Best wishes with your wonderful new job. The elderly will be benefitting from your unique skills and caring instead of the wildlife.

A warm welcome to our new secretary, Yvonne. She will also be doing the Snapshot so please contact her for all your secretarial needs.

A sad farewell to Kim as well who is now living in Brisbane. She will be sadly missed, especially on the phone



WE WON THE TWEED SHIRE SENIOR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD!

Four of our members won.

Joy, Ron, Robert and Mary (who couldn't make it to the award ceremony) greatly deserve their historic win. Thanks to them for all they do and for helping to raise the profile of TVWC in the Tweed Shire.

Photo by Sharyn Wineberg shows Joy, Ron and Robert (at back) accepting their awards from MP Geoff Provest.

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 for the column or Jasmine on 0422 019 095 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.

COMMITTEE MEETING and OTHER MEETINGS

We now have PayPal up and working which will make things easier and we can now become a permanent fixture at TOMRA. Thanks to Peter for all his hard work.

TVWC has decided to appoint another Supply Officer whose duties will include helping people to get native browse, cheap fresh food, raise meal worms and also source second hand cages on Gumtree and keep track of cages, etc. We are asking for volunteers for this VERY IMPORTANT JOB.

New South Wales Wildlife Council (NWC) News

On 1st March, the OEH published four documents online and opened a consultation period, seeking submissions and feedback on these documents until 12th April 2019. A link to the page showing all four documents is provided below:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/rehabilitating-native-animals/wildlife-rehabilitation-sector-strategy>

After considering all submissions, the OEH will work in partnership with the wildlife rehabilitation sector to co-design a system of accreditation and finalise an initial transition process to accreditation prior to full introduction of the accreditation process in late December 2019. Read more about [wildlife rehabilitation](#). For further information about the regulation of the wildlife rehabilitation sector, please contact the Biodiversity and Wildlife team by email npws.bwt@environment.nsw.gov.au. NWC has done a great submission so we don't have to. You can find full documentation on the OEH review, accreditation strategy and accreditation standards, as well as the NWC submission to the OEH on the NWC website <http://www.nwc.org.au/>. We made suggestions for that submission and, as of the last committee meeting, we have a timetable to make the requisite changes so that we will be able to meet all the new accreditation standards by the end of the year. That's our carer (Jenny Weston) and her echidna on the front cover of the OEH review.

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

Review of the NSW Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector

An evidence base for guiding
future reform



www.environment.nsw.gov.au

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

This meeting was attended by 20 people who heard presentations by Josh Carpenter, the founder of the bin project; Alexandra, the founder of Pandanus Creek films who wants to make wildlife videos, and Rachael and Garry talking about an ongoing project called STARS (Supporting the Animal Rescue Services). If you are interested in this, please call them. They will be at the next meeting to discuss it further. We also discussed the new logo and the new frog policy. For copies, please contact Yvonne on 0411 622 720. It was suggested that we mailbox drop our brochure in the streets that we live in. If you are interested in this idea, please attend the next general meeting in June to pick up some brochures.

GRANTS, FUNDING AND DONATIONS

NOW OPEN for your consideration if you feel the need for some funds:



Biodiversity Innovative Solutions Grant Fund – maximum \$5,000

The purpose of this Grant Program is to encourage and support individuals, organisations and community groups to develop new, creative and innovative solutions to a range of current sustainability challenges.

NOTE: Individual application limits for Biodiversity will apply in accordance with the requirements of those grants.

To be eligible for Innovative Solutions Grant Program funding, applications need to address the following:

- A short project plan including scope, objectives, time frame, key deliverables, budget and sources of funding and in-kind contributions and how the outcomes will be communicated to the target audience.
- Letters of support will need to be provided to verify any agreed partnerships, other investors and in-kind contributions.
- The individual, organisation or community group submitting the application must reside in or have their main office in Tweed Shire.
- The project or initiative must operate within and provide outcomes for the Tweed.
- The applicant will need to satisfy the reporting requirements for the acquittal of Council funding.

Applications can be made at any time and are assessed four times a year. Find more information on the Tweed Shire Council website: <https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/grantsandfunding>

Acquittal of the Australia Post Grant

We have now finalised the \$500 grant from Australia Post.

Thanks to Marta for all the great job she has done on all our new and magnificent artwork and design.

This means that we now have car magnets for sale.

Here is a photo of the car magnet. You can order one for \$20. To order, contact Peter and you can pick it up at the next general meeting.



Grill'd Tweed Heads

We have won again. They would like to work with us, so if anyone has any ideas about that or would like to take a poster to put up in their restaurant, please contact Jan via Viber or call her mobile.

Kingscliff Library Easter Exhibition

If you want to help, please contact **Sharron on 0439 478 847 or Jan on 0410 475 716.**

Fishing Line Debris Disposal Bin Project

This funded project is almost complete. The bins are out and are being serviced by TVWC members. As discussed at our last general meeting, Sylvia needs people to source appropriate outlets for the Tide Time Brochure with our blurb on the back, if you want to help, contact **Ron on 0491 084 813.**

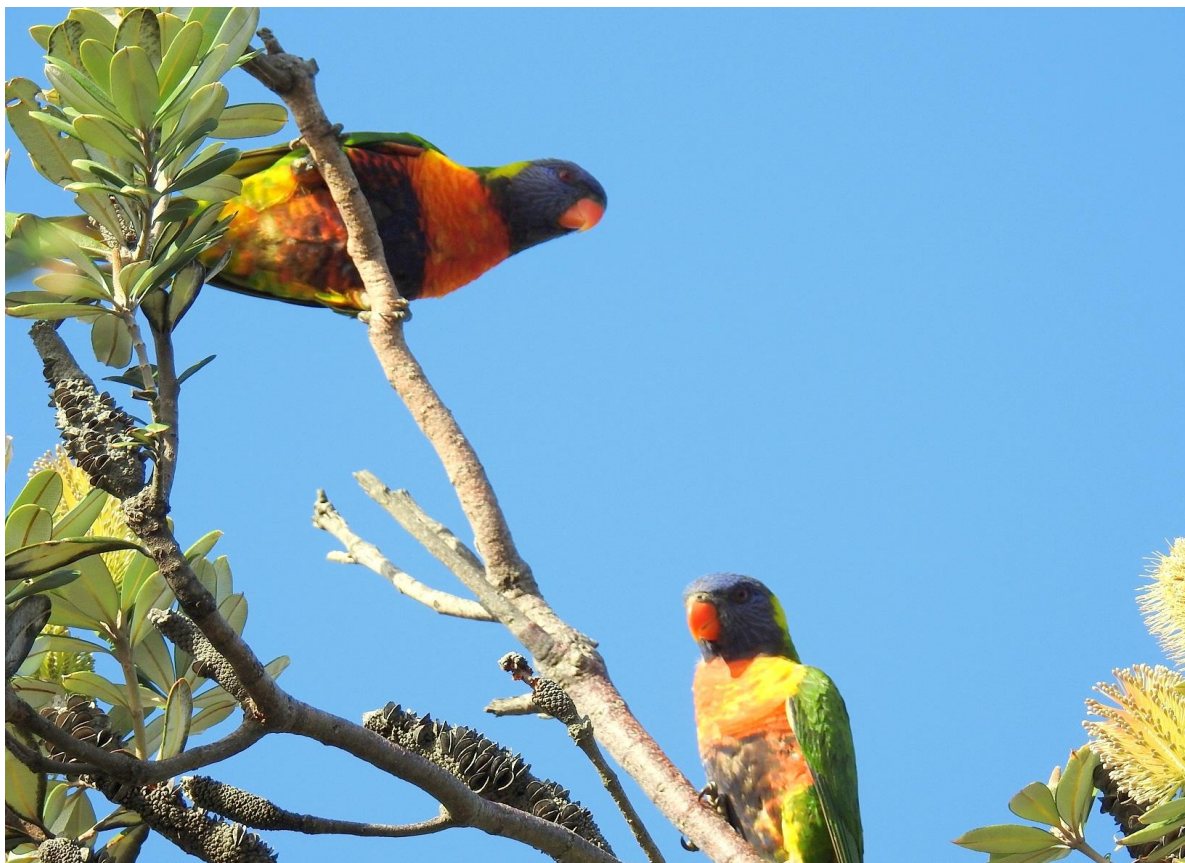


**World Environment Day Festival held by the Caldera Environment Centre,
Sunday 2nd June.**

Our big fundraiser of the year, so we should start planning as soon as possible. If you want to help, please contact **Kerryn**.

ANIMAL NEWS

We have had a request from Louise Hatton, a wildlife project officer from the OEH, to ask our members if anybody is seeing unusual numbers of lorikeets or similar species coming into care. If you suspect this is the case, contact Michelle, Bird Coordinator, immediately.





Have you picked up an unusual non-native animal?

Take photos, confirm the species and report it to NSW DPI:
Online report form: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/sighting
Report line: 1800 680 244

Can you temporarily hold the animal for DPI in a secure location?

No ↓

Can another wildlife carer or vet securely hold the animal for DPI?

Yes →

We will contact you to discuss the next steps (during business hours).

No ↓

If the animal can't be held, ask a vet to euthanase it and hold it in the freezer if possible.

If the animal needs to be euthanased we will arrange that with you.

We will organise for the animal to be transported to our State Vet Diagnostic Laboratory.



More information

- Only hold an animal for NSW DPI if:
 - you can separate it from others to prevent the spread of disease,
 - it doesn't require medical attention, and
 - it is safe to have it in your care.
- In most cases the animal will need to be euthanased because:
 - All non-native reptiles (and most other unusual non-native animals) are classed as Prohibited Dealings under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*. This means it's illegal for them to be kept as a pet.
 - These animals are of unknown origin and we know nothing about their health, history, or genetics. They present serious biosecurity risks and are generally not suitable for zoo collections.

- If an animal is an endangered species and may be valuable for a conservation program, we will consider rehoming it to a zoo. This is why it's important to confirm the species before euthanasia.
- The State Vet Diagnostic Laboratory conducts biosecurity screenings and genetic sampling. This information helps us manage the risks of new non-native species in NSW, and may assist with scientific research.
- NSW DPI will cover costs associated with this work.

If you'd like to find out more:

Email: invasive.species@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 6391 3525

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/nia

BATS

There was an outbreak of botulinus among the bats at the Lismore creche recently. This is a very rare occurrence and is being investigated by the OEH. Unfortunately, one of the bats was Shayne's handraised baby. Our heart goes out to her.

Daen needs help with feeding the bats in the aviary at Uki. If you can help and would like to get hands-on experience with our beautiful bats, please give her a ring.

BIRDS

Posters feature bush stone curlews as they are going to CWH with metabolic diseases because well-meaning MOPs are feeding them. If you can put some into caravan parks, please get the posters from Jan and ask Michelle where to put them up.

Speaking of curlews, a very rare beach stone-curlew chick hatched at Cudgera Creek Park at Hastings Point in December 2018. This is the first time we have seen this species breeding in the region and it is quite remarkable according to the TSC because the adult birds are one of only eight breeding pairs in the state.

Michelle recommends watching the David Attenborough series *Our Planet* on Netflix. If you are into reading, I recommend *Your Backyard Birds. Understanding the behaviours, habits and needs of our brilliant birds* by Dr Grainne Cleary.



Mary is distressed by the number of birds being affected at Lake Kimberley. She has been in contact with a mop, Robin, who sent in this picture of fishing equipment abandoned by the side of the lake. The council is also spraying around the lake, affecting the insects which are a source of food for the birds which are already struggling in this area.

REPTILES

Queensland has notified us that Eastern Water Dragons are falling prey to an outbreak of a fatal yellow fungal disease around Brisbane, so be on the lookout for that as well. This is also reportable, so please contact Max or Cam if you notice anything unusual.



We are pleased to announce that Max has now obtained a professional snake catcher licence.

We now have a much-needed companion for Sue. Please make a note of the number, especially if

you are a phonie.

MAMMALS

7TH MARCH 2019 **THE GUARDIAN**: More than 100 dead and injured ringtail possums have been found by wildlife rescuers along a single stretch of beach in Victoria in what ecologists say is becoming an annual occurrence due to extreme heat. Rescuers and wildlife carers discovered 127 ringtail possums along the shoreline and in the water at Somers beach on the Mornington Peninsula on Saturday during a four-day period that saw consistent temperatures in the high-30s, warm nights and bushfires in parts of the state. Veterinary staff are working with Wildlife Health Victoria: Surveillance at Melbourne University to investigate the cause of the deaths.

POSITION VACANT: Friends of the Koala is seeking to fill a vacancy for a vet nurse part-time for six months. Full details can be found on their website under Get Active in the Menu on the front page and then Job Opportunities. Applications close on 19th April.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

OTHER EDUCATIONAL TALKS

Jan is giving a talk to the View Club at Kingscliff Bowling Club and also at Tweed Heads in May.

CALENDAR

Date		Group	Workshop	Location	Time
April					
Monday	8th	TVWC	Committee meeting	M'bah RSL	5.00 – 7.00
May					
Sunday	5th	Membership	Orientation	M'bah Comm Centre	9.00 – 1.00
Monday	13th	TVWC	Committee meeting	M'bah RSL	5.00 – 7.00
Sunday	19th	Training	Rescue (Basic)	M'bah Comm Centre	9.00 – 4.00
June					
Saturday	1st	TVWC	General meeting	M'bah Comm Centre	1.00 – 4.00
Monday	10th	TVWC	Committee meeting	M'bah RSL	4.00 – 6.00

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 5th May from 9am to 1pm

at the Murwillumbah Community Centre, Nullum St, Murwillumbah.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE 1st JUNE

Please come to the next **General Meeting** on Saturday 1st June at the Community Centre in Murwillumbah from 1pm to 4pm.

Bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.

You can buy car magnets, books, hi viz vests and carry baskets.

Pick up brochures and posters for distribution in your area and discuss the new policies.

Also stock up on towels.

TRAINING

Here is the training so far for the next year. A lot of more experienced members will be looking to update their training. Remember it must be done every three years.

Date		Group	Workshop	Location	Time
April					
Sunday	7th	TVWC	Possum & Glider (Basic)	TBA	9:00am - 3:00pm
Saturday	27th	Wildcare	Orient/Rescue/1st Aid	Nerang	9:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday	28th	Wildcare	Habitat & Native Plant ID	Gold Coast Hinterland	9:30am - 4:00pm
May					
Saturday	4th	Wildcare	Orphaned Mammals (Adv)	Nerang	9:30am - 3:00pm

Sunday	5th	TVWC	Orientation	Murw Community Centre (Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah)	9:00am - 1:00pm
Sunday	5th	Wildcare	Possum (Basic)	Wacol	9:30am - 4:00pm
Sunday	12 th	Bats Qld	Rescue Bats (&Hotline)	Gold Coast – TBA	TBA
Sunday	19th	Wildcare	Orphaned Mammals (Basic)	Nerang	9:30am - 4:00pm
Sunday	19th	TVWC	Rescue & Transport (Basic)	Murw Community Centre (Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah)	9:00am - 3:30pm
Saturday	25th	Wildcare	Gliders	Nerang	9:30am - 4:00pm
Sunday	26 th	Bats Qld	Adult & Wound Mgmt	Gold Coast – TBA	TBA
June					
Saturday	1st	TVWC	General Meeting	Murw Community Centre (Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah)	1:00pm - 4:00pm
Sunday	2nd	Wildcare	Echidnas	Wacol	9:30am – 2:00pm
Saturday	9th	Wildcare	Orient/Rescue/1st Aid	Wacol	9:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday	16th	TVWC	First Aid & Overnight Care	Pumpenbil	9:00am - 3:00pm
Saturday & Sunday	22nd 23rd	WIRES NR	Bats – flying fox & microbat Rescue/Rehab/Release	Lismore : (Southern Cross Uni Campus Rm Z181A & B)	8:30am – 4:30pm
Sunday	23 rd	Bats Qld	Orphan Flying Fox	Gold Coast - TBA	TBA

Phone training and **Record training** Contact : Robyn 0423 167 344
robyn@ozwildlife.com

TVWC	TVWC members Non-members	FREE \$20	Bookings: Robyn robyn@ozwildlife.com
Bats Qld	BQ members Non-members	FREE \$10/yr	Bookings: committee@batsqld.org.au
Wildcare	Wildcare members Non-members	FREE \$20 full day, \$10 half day	Bookings: Cathy education@wildcare.org.au
WIRES NR	TVWC members	2 day - \$65 incl Lunch	Bookings : Suzanne Ulyatt Susie_u@bigpond.com Or wiresnr@wiresnr.org

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
 (Nullum Rd, Murwillumbah, near the netball courts)

BAT TRAINING

Bats Qld - Upcoming workshops

Hi everyone,

For those interested in getting involved with the rescue and/or care of bats, Bats Qld have 3 workshops coming up which may interest you.

Rescue and Hotline Training - Sunday 12 May 2019

Adult and Wound Management - Sunday 26 May 2019

Orphan Flying Fox Workshop - Sunday 23 June 2019

The workshops will be held on the Gold Coast - venue to be confirmed.

Workshops are free for members of Bats Qld and membership is only \$10 per person per year.

Information about Bats Qld and an online membership application can be found on their website at:

<http://www.batsqld.org.au/>

Make sure you check out their Facebook page as well - <https://www.facebook.com/BatsQLD/>

Please contact Corrina if you want to attend the workshops.

MORE STATISTICS

Worrying Echidna stats from Robyn. They speak for themselves.

2017 Jan-Jun 8 rescued (7 released, 1 died)

2017 Jul-Dec 8 rescued (5 released, 3 died)

2018 Jan-Jun 7 rescued (5 released, 2 died)

2018 Jul-Dec 19 rescued (11 released, 8 died) with July-Oct being the biggest months for rescues.

CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

CWH has seen high numbers of species admissions in the last few weeks with 18 Kingfishers and 24 Flying Foxes admitted to the hospital in a single day!

CWH New Admissions

When admitting new animals to us, please give as much information as you can regarding its history. Below are some examples of important things to note:

- When did the member of the public first notice it was sick/injured?
- Was it found near a road or away from a road?
- Do dogs or cats frequent the area?
- Was it still able to stand up, or was it lying down?
- Did it attempt to fly/run away when captured, or was it easy to capture?
- Did you offer any food overnight, and if so, did it eat?

- For babies, were the parents still around?
- Did the member of the public want the animal released back on their property?

It was brought up the last general meeting that the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital admission form is a little confusing.

CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

Wildlife Admission Form

Species: type of animal if not known blank

Did you name the patient? N/A

When did you rescue the patient? _____

Time: _____ Date: _____

What happened to the patient? _____

Your name: MOP name

Phone number: MOP

Email address: MOP (if applicable)

Are you happy to receive updates/newsletters from us? -> Your Choice Yes ☒ No ☐

Where did you find the patient? (exact address please) _____

Suburb: _____

Are you a member of a wildlife care group? TVWC

Wildlife care group reference number: _____

Has the patient had any food/water/medications? _____

Would you like to make a donation to contribute to the cost of caring for this patient? -> Your Choice Yes ☒ No ☐

S:\Vets\Reception\Templates\[Admission Form.xlsx]Form

After a few attempts, Sharron has worked it out and has sent in this explanation because knowing how to fill in the form saves time.

Species: Write in the type of animal. If you are unsure, leave it blank and allow the vet to identify.

Did you name the patient?

Can be left blank. If the mop gives you a name, you can write it in.

Your name: This is the name of the person who discovered the animal - generally a mop. Put your name if you actually found the animal.

Phone number and email address: This is the mop unless you found and took the animal to Currumbin.

Where did you find the patient? Please write

exact address as the animal needs to be returned to the same place it was found. Some streets are extremely long so remember to write in the number or any relevant information.

Are you a member of a wildlife group? TVWC

And the **reference number:**

If you know that the animals have had food, water or medications, fill in with relevant information. Usually this is left blank.

Wait for the CWH number and text or ring the TVWC Hotline to ensure they have the CWH number for their records.

Appointments for Rechecks

When foster patients need to come back for a recheck, please call us to arrange a day and time, and advise us of the patient number and reason for recheck. We prefer if rechecks are dropped off to us in the morning for collection at a later time, but we can also make appointments for those unable to return later in the day. We will endeavour to see appointments on time, but please be aware that urgent cases will be given priority, which may cause some delays.

Recheck Admission Forms

Please find attached our new recheck admission form. 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.

Transport Cages/Baskets

Wherever possible, we would prefer that transport carriers are not left at the hospital for collection at a later date due to a lack of storage space. When carriers are required to be left here, please ensure that it's clearly labelled with your name, and ensure it's collected within a few days.

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.

Providing the Hospital with Outcomes

For those that don't know, the hospital would like to be informed when foster patients have an outcome, i.e. released, died etc. Some carers update us immediately, whilst others send monthly updates. We would really appreciate if you could flick a quick email to vets@cws.org.au with your updates.

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@twwc.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.