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SNAPSHOT NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

Table of Contents

GREETINGS

Renewal of Membership	2
Covid-19 News	3
Trouble in the Tweed	4

NEW MEMBERS

7

ANIMAL NEWS

8

<i>ANIMAL RESCUE AND PHONES</i>	8
ANIMAL CARE	10
BIRDS	10
BATS	12
REPTILES	13
MAMMALS	13
CALENDAR	15
TRAINING	16
MEETINGS	18
<i>NEXT ORIENTATION</i>	18
<i>NEXT GENERAL MEETING</i>	18
GRANTS	19
Volunteers Needed for a Research Project with Tweed Landcare	20
MEDIA	20
COMMITTEE AND OTHER MEETINGS	21
LICENCE AND INSURANCE	22
FUNDRAISING	23
Raffle	23

Please click on the links and email addresses throughout the document to be transferred

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is now July, a time when we start to ramp up our efforts. This is a bumper newsletter but please read it as it contains a lot of important information about the group.

Our annual report to the NPWS is almost finalised, thanks to all those who put on their records, the phonies, transporters, rescuers and carers and our wonderful team of record-keepers, Robyn, Louise, Bronwyn and the co-ordinators. Thanks to all of you who have kept us going through drought, fires, flood and disease. I am so proud to be part of this group. From Zoom committee meetings to QLD border crossings, we have been dealing with all of it with our usual mixture of ingenuity and resilience. Our hotline, rescuing, caring and releasing has gone on despite everything.



Renewal of Membership

Now is the time to renew your membership, if you haven't already done so. It is important for insurance coverage and for the right to participate actively in how this group is run. Please remember that for a whole lot of reasons, our wildlife need you more than ever.

Our **Annual General Meeting** is going to be held in September this year. We have come a long way over the last few years and now have 15 office bearers spread out over 27 positions. The goal is to have another 10 people involved in the running of our organization so that each role is carried out to the optimal benefit of the wildlife and to minimise stress and burnout amongst the executive. Now is the time to come to the AGM and offer your help. You will be mentored and supported and I guarantee you will learn a lot.

We have not had a newsletter editor for three years, so please, if you have any interest or experience and could help, email the committee: committee@twvc.org.au. The newsletter is now coming out quarterly so it isn't a huge time commitment but your help would be greatly appreciated.

Covid-19 News

There are 12,977,429 reported cases of COVID-19 throughout the world and 570,259 deaths as of the time of this newsletter. Despite an increase in the number of infections in Victoria and the rest of NSW, the number of cases in the Tweed Shire has remained stable at 14 since the outbreak and, as our population is estimated to be 97,000, we are in a very good position, although this could change.

The COVID-19 restrictions are easing despite the setback in Victoria so we might be able to get on dealing with the fallout from this awful year. To keep up-to-date with council and other government agency information as restrictions begin to ease, visit the **COVID-19 dashboard** by clicking here: <https://emergency.tweed.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus>

Please continue to practise social distancing:

- Maintain 1.5m **physical distancing** from others
- Wash your hands before and after activities
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow
- Stay at home when you're sick
- **get tested** if you have symptoms.

Since the second wave of disease in Melbourne, Queensland has issued a new pass to cross the border. You are only allowed to enter Queensland if you are an exempt person or have been granted an exemption from Queensland's Chief Health Officer **AND** you have a **Queensland Border Declaration Pass**. <https://www.qld.gov.au/border-pass/queensland-border-declaration-pass-july-10A> separate pass is required for each individual, including children. Once your Queensland Border Declaration Pass is approved, you will need to enter Queensland within a few days as they are issuing new passes every week at present. At the moment, the crossing is causing long delays and congestion in Tweed Heads. Let's hope this is all over soon.

There have been no reports of the SARS CoV-2 virus infection in pets, livestock or wildlife in Australia. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) advises that internationally, there is currently no evidence to suggest that animals infected by humans are playing a role in the spread of COVID-19. Diagnostic testing and surveillance in animals for COVID-19 in Australia is only recommended on the advice of human and animal health authorities. If testing is

undertaken, confirmatory testing should be performed at the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (the former Australian Animal Health Laboratory).

Carers must not look after wildlife if they have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19. If you are a carer, you must have a plan for what you will do to get your animals cared for should you feel unwell and need to be tested.

Trouble in the Tweed

Every year, the ANU collates a vast number of measurements from satellites, field stations and surveys and publishes an evaluation of the environmental status of Australia using seven criteria including temperatures, vegetation clearing rates, rainfall and fire incidences. Unfortunately, the latest data collected from the shire demonstrates that even before this year with its fires and floods, the Tweed was having a hard time. The Tweed's environmental health score fell from 7.5 in 2018 to 2.3 in 2019, indicating that the environment is under pressure.

Overall environmental condition scores for LGAs

Environmental condition scores (ECS) scores for local government areas (LGAs), 2000 to 2019

The table below is sorted from worst (lowest ECS score) to best. Click on the '2019 score' column header to sort from highest to lowest scores. You can also search for a particular LGA using the search input field below

tweed

Local Government Area

2000 – 2019

▲ 2019 score

Tweed

2.3

2.33

Environmental Condition Scores are annual composite scores derived from equal weighting of seven indicators. The indicators used to calculate the scores are: number of hot days, leaf area, vegetation carbon uptake, soil protection, tree cover, river inflows, and wetland inundation.

Table: The Conversation • Source: [Centre for Water and Landscape Dynamics, ANU](#)

Across most of Australia, the environment was already reeling from poor conditions in 2018. Also, cool temperatures in the Indian Ocean delayed the onset of the monsoon in northern Australia and reduced the flow of moisture to the rest of the

continent, creating hot and dry conditions. Average rainfall was a mere 229mm across the continent, the lowest in more than 119 years and probably longer than that. The heat was also extraordinary. The average number of days above 35°C across the country was 36% more than the average for the 19 years prior. Source: <https://www.wenfo.org/aer/>

If this is all too depressing, here are some things you can do in Plastic Free July to improve the situation and your frame of mind:

- *The Redcycle Bin* is now back in most supermarkets and available for your soft plastic wrappings.
- *The Towards Zero Waste Policy* Have your say on Tweed Shire Council's draft policy which is on public exhibition until Tuesday 21 July 2020. Make a submission by using the online submission form at www.yoursaytweed.com.au/zerowaste or send your submission by email to: tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au (Subject: Draft Towards Zero Waste Policy) or by mail to: The General Manager, Tweed Shire Council, PO Box 816 Murwillumbah NSW 2484. Submissions are open until 4pm on Tuesday 21 July.
- *The Parliamentary Inquiry into Cats* Please write a submission on this as well. New hub research has quantified the impact of pet cats on our wildlife for the first time. 71% of Australian cat owners allow their pets to roam and hunt. 2.7 million cats kill 110 native animals per year on average... 390 million animals per year across Australia, and the impact is concentrated in our towns where pet cats occur at very high densities. The findings have been summarised in this video. This is not about cats, but it is about their owners. Click on the link below to find out more.

https://www.aph.gov.au/parliamentary_business/committees/house/environment_and_energy/feralanddomesticcats

- *Write to the Council* Mary, our seabird co-ordinator, has recently written to complain



about a dep pothole next to the south-bound lane of Chinderah Bay Drive, Chinderah, 20 metres south of Tweed River Seafoods. As Mary told the council: "This is filled with rain water and birds fly across the traffic to drink. They get KILLED. Solution: Fill in POTHOLES so no water can accumulate. Let's hope the council does something about this bird black spot.

- *Two Green Threads – Supporting Wildlife Carers*

For some, the lockdown has been a time of rest and renewal. For others it has been stressful, boring and lonely. Feeling calm and being able to manage emotions is the basis of resilience and vitality and a group that can function well. We need to experience positive emotions such as happiness, joy, pride, satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment and purpose to counteract the extreme stresses being generated around us. Hopefully, the COVID-19 lockdown has given us a chance to evaluate our daily routines and our motives so that we can eventually restart our busy lives with a sense of renewal and optimism. The Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife (FNPW) has teamed up with podcast producer Gretchen Miller, wildlife carers and

psychologists to start a mental health conversation. You can view these podcasts on the link below the list:

1. Climate Change – the grief we feel

How can we take care of ourselves as climate warriors and climate worriers?
Guests:

Dr Ros Irwin, a veteran carer and president of Friends of the Koala from Lismore in NSW.

Sally Gillespie, a former psychotherapist who presents talks and workshops on climate psychology and ecopsychology.

2. Personal Wellbeing – looking after yourself in order to better look after others

Wildlife care is 24/7 as we all know. So how do we make time for ourselves, and what can we do to ensure we remain well, and are able to keep caring?
Guests:

Suzy Nethercott-Watson, a carer for 20 years, and the director of Two Green Threads - a website built to support wildlife volunteers in the work they do. www.twogreenthreads.org

Sharon Draper, animal lover and Sydney-based psychologist with an interest in trauma and compassion fatigue.

3. Community Conflict

The pressures are great, so what happens when we stop getting along? We consider conflict - from individual, to in the group, to with the larger community and how wildlife volunteers can build and maintain positive and supportive relationships.
Guests:

Jess Birrell, wildlife volunteer, reptile trainer and expert.
Lyn Page, TAFE senior counsellor, volunteer field psychologist with Red Cross, and a member of the disaster response network with the Australian Psychological Society

4. Catastrophic Events

Catastrophic events are all too frequent - flood and fire all take their toll on wildlife and wildlife carers are always there to pick up the pieces. So how do we best recover and look after ourselves, and our animals, after we've been on the front line of a traumatic wildlife rescue emergency?

Guests:

Jessi Jean Drew-Smythe, wildlife volunteer and bat carer, studying environmental biology

Lyn Page, TAFE senior counsellor, volunteer field psychologist with Red Cross, and a member of the disaster response network with the Australian Psychological Society

5. Supporting Others – looking after our carer friends

We're all in this together - so how best to support and encourage our fellow wildlife volunteers when they struggle?

Guests:

Tilly Gray, wildlife carer who loves all animals (humans included!) and is currently working on “The Wildlife Carer Rehabilitation Manual - How to Care for Human Beings”

Sally Gillespie, a former psychotherapist who presents talks and workshops on climate psychology and ecopsychology and has written a book, *Climate Crisis and Consciousness: Re-imagining Our World and Ourselves*.

These podcasts were funded through the Australian Government’s bushfire wildlife and habitat recovery package and is part of the Caring for Carers program that FNPW is rolling out as part of the Wildlife Heroes project which can be accessed at the link below:

<https://wildlifeheroes.org.au/caring-for-australian-wildlife-carers/>

- To learn more about Wildlife Heroes, join their e-news list by clicking on this link:

<https://form.jotform.co/92740672018861>

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all our new members. We need you now more than ever and soon we will finally be able to get to know you face-to-face. Unfortunately, our training is going to be disrupted for a while yet so please be patient. We have been informed by the NPWS that a lot more of our future training is going to have to be conducted within the group than has been done previously. At present we have two very experienced educators who have completed TAFE training certificates, a university educator and two co-ordinators who have now completed the NPWS teacher training, so our educational needs are covered for the time being even though this is going to mean a lot of extra work for us. It is exciting that we will get expert information tailored to our specific circumstances delivered to us when we need it most. This will be supplemented by training days delivered by other groups in the Northern Rivers and south-east Queensland. We are also working on new policies to allow a smoother and more transparent entry into the group.

Please do not hesitate to call any of our office bearers on matters mentioned in this newsletter or about any other queries that you may have by accessing their contact details here on our website. <http://tvwc.org.au/members-page/>

You will need your login and password to access this information.

ANIMAL NEWS



ANIMAL RESCUE AND PHONES

New Phonies

A warm welcome to our new phonies *Tricia and Emma*

Euthanasia Facility

We have set up a new euthanasia facility in Kingscliff. *Luke* is there to help. Please ring the hotline if you need to use this facility.

Feral Species

The Local Land Services hotline **1300 795 299** will deal with issues involving feral species that come up on our hotline. However, if you just want to make a report of a sighting, you can do it at <https://www.feralscan.org.au/foxscan/> Feralscan is an app you can download to your phone which allows you to report many different widespread pests. This information is used for mapping distribution and collating data on the numbers and problem areas so that feral species can be dealt with more efficiently. They are a massive problem.

New Vet Hospitals

Northern Rivers vets Dr Stephen Van Mil and Dr Evan Kosack are opening a new Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital. During construction of the permanent, specialist treatment centre with a sanctuary attached, they will operate a semi-trailer-sized Mobile Wildlife facility. Another wildlife hospital is also scheduled to open in Mullumbimby in the near future. These ventures will take the pressure off CWH which is seeing annual increases in their wildlife intake.

Rescue Techniques

We have uploaded Mary Grant's invaluable rescuing techniques for ibises and seabirds. Check it out in the membership section of our website. In line with the new accreditation standards, we are developing a structured training program for new members, rescuers and specialist animal carers that is current, documented, linked to learning outcomes including OEH regulatory requirements, and is competency-based. Rachael, our training officer, is compiling a current training register so don't forget to contact her if you have completed a training session. Susan is updating our policy and procedures in readiness for the accreditation processes and we will also need to establish a mentoring system. If you would like to help, please contact Kerry, our membership officer.

Heat Sources

Any animal (except echidnas) that is in shock, injured or sick requires a supplementary heat source provided within its housing to assist in its rehabilitation from a compromised state. It is also essential for baby animals and reptiles to be provided with a heat source as part of their enclosures/tubs/pouches. A variety of options are available for a range of heating requirements. Talk to co-ordinators and experienced carers about your requirements, as they are the best source of practical advice and are aware of recommended temperatures for individual species and other details. Any heat source needs a digital thermometer (\$5) to monitor temperature. Some sources can be attached to an external thermostat (approx \$120) to regulate temperature. The new just-released codes of practice are mandating the use of digital thermometers with alarms. Corrina has sourced these and we are buying them in bulk in order to pass on a saving to our members. Please contact the treasurer if you would like to purchase one. They are more suitable for caring than for rescuing as they are expensive. Common heat sources are demonstrated in the table below:

Heat source	Approx. Cost	Suitable uses	Characteristics
Hot water bottle/heat pack	\$5 - \$10	placed in transport box or pouch when rescuing or transporting wildlife	unstable temperature, needs careful monitoring, portable
Instant heat pack	\$1 - \$2 each	placed in transport box or pouch when rescuing or transporting wildlife	single use, great for emergencies, handy to keep in the car
Coloured 'party globe' – red coloured	\$3 - \$5	all diurnal (daytime active) birds, reptiles	easily fitted to desk lamp, can be used to heat a tub, instant heat
Reflector globe	\$6	all diurnal (daytime active) birds, reptiles	needs special fitting
Ceramic bulb	\$40	nocturnal birds, reptiles, marsupials	emits heat but no light
Hot box	\$50 - \$200	intensive care animals, birds, reptiles, mammals, babies	insulated box, can be fitted with coloured globe, reflector globe or ceramic bulb, can be home-made or commercial
Heat pad	\$60 - \$100	all joeys, possums, bandicoots, ducklings	takes time to warm up, need to monitor temperature carefully

ANIMAL CARE

BIRDS

Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome



There has been an update on LPS Lorikeet Paralysis, a seasonal syndrome which has been occurring in Australia since the 1970's. For information or to report disease, contact WHA on the link above but always talk to the bird co-ordinator first. The syndrome usually affects rainbow lorikeets. The birds cannot fly and have varying degrees of paralysis in their legs and feet. Less severely affected birds recover with supportive care. It is now thought to be caused by an environmental toxin, although the precise cause is still unknown. To find out more, click on this link:

<http://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/AboutUs/ContactDetails.aspx>

Australian Wood Duck Road Fatality

This beautiful male Australian wood duck was brought to me with a broken neck after being hit by a truck, which was witnessed speeding up after the family had been sighted on the road. It died soon after arrival. Now that the roads are becoming busier, the fatalities are coming in at an ever-increasing rate.

The Australian wood duck or maned duck is a dabbling duck. It is the only living species in the genus *Chenonetta*. It is found in grasslands, open woodlands, wetlands, flooded pastures and along the coast in inlets and bays. It will often be found around deeper lakes that may be unsuitable for other waterbirds' foraging, as it prefers to forage on land.



It eats grasses, clover and other herbs, and occasionally, insects. It is rarely seen on open water, preferring to forage by dabbling in shallow water, or in grasslands and crops. It forms monogamous breeding pairs that stay together year-round. It nests in tree holes, above or near water, often re-using the same site. Both parents feed the young and they remain with their parents for up to a month.



Getting ready for more hot weather

Bat numbers are falling everywhere. If you would like to support our bats, please contact Corrina, our co-ordinator.

Release of Baby Bats

We have raised about 30 babies this year and sent them for release to the creche in the Northern Rivers.

Hendra Outbreak

An unvaccinated thoroughbred horse was euthanased after contracting Hendra virus on a property south of Murwillumbah. It is the first case of Hendra virus infection in NSW this year. In NSW, there have been 23 confirmed horse deaths as a result of Hendra virus since 2006, with most cases occurring on the north coast.

Hendra virus is a virus that infects our large fruit bats (flying foxes). Occasionally the virus can spread from flying foxes to horses and horses can then pass the infection on to humans via horse body fluids or respiratory secretions.

It is thought that horses may contract Hendra virus infection from eating food recently contaminated by flying fox urine, saliva or birth products.

There is no evidence of human to human, bat to human, bat to dog or dog to human transmission.

While this may be the case, it is still an important reminder to bat rescuers to be mindful of following the correct PPE procedures and have the appropriate equipment when attending rescues.

REPTILES

New Reptile Co-ordinator

JO CABALE is now our new reptile co-ordinator. Thanks, Jo, for stepping in at such short notice.

Photo Judy Bray



MAMMALS

Possum Training

Just before the lockdown, I conducted a day-long, hands-on training session on how to care for baby possums with an overview of overnight care of possums and the raising of possums to release with the aim of increasing the number of possum carers in the group. We had an attendance of 10, mainly new members, and it was a very productive day with some carers going home with baby possums. Don't forget to tell Rachael about your training.



New Small Mammal Co-ordinator **SARAH JANTOS**

Due to overwork, I am sadly stepping down as small mammal co-ordinator. I have loved every minute of it, but I find I cannot bounce back from the night feeds in the way that I used to and there are more and more complicated demands on my time as president.

Photo: Kangaroo Island Dunnart

Thanks so much to Sarah for all her help.

Jenny Weston will continue to be the go-to for all things echidna and I will continue to be the first port of call for the platypus.

Platypus

Of the 113 priority fauna species identified by the Federal Government as worst impacted by bushfires, 61 (54%) are freshwater species that live in or around our inland rivers, such as fish, frogs, turtles and the platypus. The recent bushfires burnt more than 7.7 million hectares and included were normally moist environments, which are not adapted to fire. Following recent rain, water flowing into rivers has washed ash into streams. This brings nutrients in sediments that drive algal blooms and wash into waterways, filling in the gaps between rocks and holes in river beds – places where many species shelter and breed. The platypus has now been declared as endangered by an international body of scientists.



THE *amazing* PLATYPUS

HOW CAN YOU HELP THEM?

USE LESS WATER	KEEP RIVERS CLEAN & HEALTHY	FISH RESPONSIBLY
The water we use in our homes and gardens can come from rivers where platypus live, so the less water we use, the more there is for platypus.	Pick up any plastic rings, rubber bands or hair ties you see, even those on the street. Rubbish can get washed into rivers and platypuses can get tangled in them. Try to pick up one piece every day.	Don't use illegal opera house yabby nets. Let your parents know if you see any, as platypuses can drown in them. Also make sure you take all your fishing lines and rubbish with you.

WHAT'S COMING UP

CALENDAR

All meetings and training may be cancelled at short notice if necessary

Date		Group	Event	Location	Time
July					
Monday	13th	TVWC	Committee meeting	M'bah RSL	5.00 – 7.00
Saturday	25th	TVWC	Quarterly Snapshot due out		
August					
Saturday	1st	Membership	Orientation	M'bah Comm Centre	9.00 – 1.00
Monday	10th	TVWC	Committee meeting	M'bah RSL	5.00 – 7.00
Saturday	15th	Training	Rescue (Basic)	M'bah Comm Centre	9.00 – 4.00
Saturday	29th	Training	Non-venomous snake handling	M'bah Comm Centre	9.00 – 4.00
September					
Saturday	5th	TVWC	Annual General Meeting	M'bah Comm Centre	1.00 – 4.00
Monday	14th	TVWC	Committee meeting	M'bah RSL	5.00 – 7.00
October					
Monday	12th	TVWC	Committee meeting	M'bah RSL	5.00 – 7.00
November					
Sunday	1st	Membership	Orientation	M'bah Comm Centre	9.00 – 1.00
Monday	9th	TVWC	Committee meeting	M'bah RSL	5.00 – 7.00
Sunday	15th	Training	Rescue (Basic)	M'bah Comm Centre	9.00 – 4.00
Wednesday	25th	TVWC	Quarterly Snapshot due out		
December					
Saturday	5th	TVWC	General Meeting & Xmas Party	M'bah Comm Centre	1.00 – 4.00
Monday	14th	TVWC	Committee	M'bah RSL	5.00 – 7.00

SNAPSHOTS: Due out quarterly, on the 25th of March, May, August and November.

Co-ordinators are invited to contribute articles/photos with a deadline a week after the committee meeting for that month.

WILDCARE: All volunteer training is currently suspended due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Phone Volunteer Training

Date: TBA - early August Location: Mount Burrell Time: 9am – 12pm

The purpose of this training is to prepare members as phone volunteers, answering the TVWC 24-hour hotline, dealing with calls as they arise and knowing where to go to for help and support when needed. Training is completed on a rostered phone day so participants can get an accurate idea of issues that may come up and processes that are used. New phone volunteers begin with a buddy, who shares the shifts with them, and also with access to an experienced phone volunteer available for advice during their shifts. The phone volunteers are a very supportive and knowledgeable group of members who roster themselves on for one day per week, fortnight or month, and get together for a gathering every three months to discuss issues, share stories and drink good coffee.

Register your interest with phone co-ordinator Jo on 0429 447 219 or by email to Jo (joeycab@hotmail.com)

Basic Reptiles 101

Dates: TBA - early August Location: Mount Burrell Time: 3 hours

Aimed at phone volunteers to equip them with the basic knowledge to assist reptile calls to the hotline. Other members with an interest in becoming more familiar with reptiles are most welcome to attend. Topics covered include basic anatomy, identification, reasons for coming into care and behaviour. Lots of practical information and opportunities to become more familiar with the reptiles in our area.

**Nb. This is not a substitute for either the non-venomous reptile handling or basic reptile care courses and is not intended to equip members as carers.*

Register your interest with phone co-ordinator Jo on 0429 447 219 or by email to Jo (joeycab@hotmail.com)

Basic Birds 101

Dates: TBA - early August Location: Mount Burrell Time: 3 hours

Aimed at phone volunteers to equip them with the basic knowledge to assist bird calls to the hotline. Other members with an interest in becoming more familiar with birds are most welcome to attend. Topics covered include basic anatomy, identification, reasons for coming into care, behaviour, baby birds and reuniting. Lots of practical information and opportunities to become more familiar with the birds in our area.

**Nb. This is not a substitute for either the basic native bird care or baby bird care courses and is not intended to equip members as carers.*

Register your interest with phone co-ordinator Jo on 0429 447 219 or by email to Jo (joeycab@hotmail.com)

NON-VENOMOUS SNAKE HANDLING AND IDENTIFICATION

The purpose of the training is to add interested members to the active members' list to respond to calls from the hotline.

The training provides the knowledge and skills to handle non-venomous snakes, behaviour, physiology, identification of local snakes and the code of practice.

The day will be held at the Murwillumbah Community Centre in Nullum St from 9am to 4pm on Saturday 29th August.

Numbers will be restricted and based on a follow-up call from the reptile co-ordinator. Please register your interest by the 17th August to the training officer on rachaellebeter@gmail.com

Requirements on the day, long pants, covered shoes, pen and notebook, byo lunch, morning tea provided.

TVWC	TVWC members Non-members	FREE \$20	Bookings: Rachael rachaellebeter@gmail.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, the latest Snapshot, emails, SMS or ring Rachael, the training officer, for updates.

MEETINGS



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. To register, ring the hotline.

WHAT: Orientation Day

WHEN: Saturday, 1st August, from 9am to 1pm

WHERE: Murwillumbah Community Centre, Nullum St, Murwillumbah.

NEXT 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 5th September 2020 1pm – 4pm

at Murwillumbah Community Centre

Nullum St Murwillumbah

Please attend. Most of our great ideas come from you, our members. We need the input of you who are doing the work.

GRANTS

Conference Scholarships

As the AWRC Conference has been postponed until August 2021, we will be taking 'wildlife hero' nominations over the coming year and announcing one scholarship winner every month (until January 2021) on the Backyard Buddies Facebook page. All licensed NSW carers are eligible and can nominate or be nominated via this online form:

https://form.jotform.com/FNPW_grants/conferencescholarship

NWC Grant

WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR ENCLOSURE AND EQUIPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM FOR 2020-2021 OPENS 1 JULY 2020

In recognition of added stresses over the past season the NWC Grants Committee has approved the doubling of their grants budget to \$20,000 and is allowing two grants to be awarded to NWC groups as well as grants to individual rehabilitators from NWC groups.

The award of an NWC group grant will not disqualify individuals from NWC groups to be included in the application and voting process. Grant applications for equipment and enclosure projects in the range from \$500 to \$2,000 will be accepted between 1 July and 7 August. Full details are included in the guidelines and in the Application Form. To be eligible to apply you must:

- Have 2 or more years' rehabilitation experience
- Have your application endorsed by the committee

Lodge your application no later than 5pm on Friday 7 August 2020. All grant applications will be assessed on the criteria: Need, Excellence, and Value for Money. Full details including the Grant Guidelines and the Application form should be downloaded by clicking on this link: www.nwc.org.au

If you need help with your application or require endorsement, please email the committee. You need to get this in very quickly.

Volunteers Needed for a Research Project with Tweed Landcare

Australia's Threatened Species Index (Source <https://tsx.org.au/>) combines data from monitoring programs across the country. This data demonstrates that populations of Australia's threatened mammals have declined by over one-third in 20 years (1995-2016), but among the losses there have been some significant recoveries. Conservation actions can be effective; populations have increased by 46% and on sites that are untouched, populations have decreased by 60% on average. This clearly shows the need for action.

After the effects of drought and fire in the Tweed, we identified a need for a pilot project to survey the effects of these events on the local wildlife and habitat. This project will enable us to develop and test a model for supporting future wildlife recovery following drought and bushfire as well as improving response times to catastrophic events and short-term and medium-term relief for the recovery of wildlife. Their recovery will then support the regeneration of the forest as returned wildlife pollinate flowers and disperse seed.

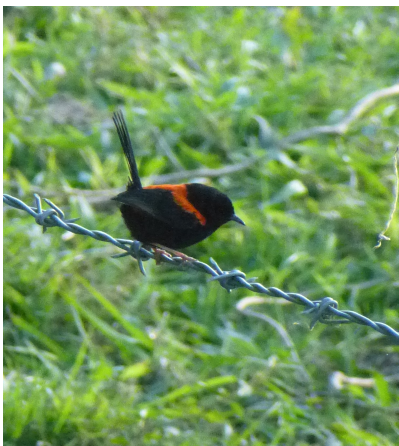
Partnering with Tweed Landcare, we have been able to secure two grants to carry out this work over the next 12 months. If you can help, please contact us via the committee email.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

MEDIA

Thanks to our lovely members, Rachael and Jasmine, our profile in the Tweed is stronger than ever. Please contact Rachael or Jasmine with stories and photos in order to make their ongoing efforts easier and Jan if you have an item for the newsletter. Our Facebook page continues to be a great success, as does the fortnightly column in the Tweed Weekly newspaper.

Make Better Content for Your Online Followers



Wildlife Heroes has partnered with www.pocketvideo.com.au to offer free online training to wildlife carers. Two x 60-minute sessions are all that is needed to take better photos and videos on your smart phone or iPad. You will also learn simple editing and sharing skills. Contact Jan to book your group in for a session. These skills will also assist with Wildlife Heroes grant reporting as we require groups to provide social media stories as one of the conditions of funding.

COMMITTEE AND OTHER MEETINGS

Thanks to Garry, we have had one Zoom meeting as well as a couple of face-to-face meetings. We have also been able to hold phonie, and some animal meetings.

New and Amended Policies

We have amended our Reptile and Bat Policies and adopted a new Conflict of Interest Policy. We are still working to reconstruct the new website to make it more user-friendly.

Wildlife Research

At the last committee meeting it was agreed that we would participate in Vanessa Barratt's research. Unfortunately, Vanessa went ahead immediately before we could warn our members to expect a message and we received a couple of anxious emails from people who had received a mysterious phone message. Vanessa was in lockdown in New Zealand at the time so I don't think she had anything else to do. Vanessa is a wildlife carer, who also works as a Wildlife Heroes Project Manager with the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife. The survey is part of her master's thesis focused on 'Attitudes to wildlife rescue'. She is collecting data to help wildlife groups understand their callers better by sending a text out via BurstSMS:

Dear Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers rescue caller. Please fill in our 2 minute survey: <https://bit.ly/tweedvalleywildlife> Thanks for your support!

This optional and confidential survey meets all Australian privacy laws and has ethics approval from the University of Otago. Under Australian law, organisations may follow up customers once, (without their explicit permission), if the contact is in relation to the service that has been provided. No mobile phone numbers or any personal or identifying information is retained as part of the survey collection.



Raising our Profile in the Tweed

As well as gathering data on who rings us, we have acquitted three grants in the last three weeks which have enabled us to design and purchase new business cards and t-shirts and we are looking into fridge magnets (thanks for the suggestion, Joanne). We really need to raise the profile of our TVWC in the Tweed Shire as Michelle, our most hardworking co-ordinator, recently pointed out: Lots of people on Facebook are still telling each other to ring WIRES. Please purchase t-shirts and magnets and take posters to put up in your local area and business cards to hand out on rescues. See Peter, our treasurer, at our AGM. For all enquiries about t-shirts, please contact Yvonne.



Front - View Larger | Edit

Back - View Larger | Edit

Front Back



Thanks to Marta for her great designs.

TVWC LICENCE AND INSURANCE

These have been renewed for this financial year.

FUNDRAISING

Raffle

Thanks to Kerryn for arranging a raffle with some great prizes and to all those who donated those prizes to us. Our lucky winners were Jeff Pollard, B. Hawthorne, J. Carter, Tracy Bates and Margaret Crisp. Our sponsors were: Crystal Castle, Kingscliff Surf Club, Bowerbird, Murwillumbah, The Chillingham Store and Halls Tyres. Kerryn raised \$250 which was a fantastic effort given all the restrictions.

CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

Recheck Admission Forms

We will ask carers to complete a recheck admission 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 its collected within a few days.

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 our Secretary via committee@tvwc.org.au

FEEDBACK

If you have anything you would like to say about the group, good bad or indifferent, please email us on committee@tvwc.org.au

THANKS

Thanks to Jan, Yvonne, Louise, Marta, Corrina, , Rachael, Michelle, Jo, Sue, Susan, Mary, Jasmine, Robyn, Geoff, Joanne, Sarah, Peter, Kate, Myrelle, Kerryn, Garry and Jude for your invaluable help in compiling this newsletter.