

Z E W S



April 2014
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© WRSC Debbie Colbert

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You can help us to keep up our wildlife rescue efforts

Visit <http://www.wildlife-rescue.org.au>



WRSC receives no government funding to assist with our operational expenses.

We rely on your donations and generous support.



2015 Calendar Photo Competition

The winner of the Photo Competition was the Eastern long-necked turtle submitted by Robyn Ardill. Second place was the Sugar glider possum submitted by Debbie Colbert and third place went to the Peron's Tree frog submitted by Wendy McFarlane.

Robyn won a 12 month 6 issue subscription to Wildlife [secrets] magazine whilst Second and Third prizes were a 6 month 3 issue subscription to the same magazine. These subscriptions were donated by the publisher and we are grateful for their support. Robyn and Debbie were presented with the subscription gift vouchers at March's general meeting by Vice President Gerry Hawkins.

Debbie's photograph features on this issue's cover with facts on Sugar gliders to read and May's Newsletter will feature Wendy's Peron's tree frog as cover and tree frogs' facts. Congratulations to everyone who contributed photos in the competition and we look forward to seeing the other finalists in the 2015 calendar. Can't wait!

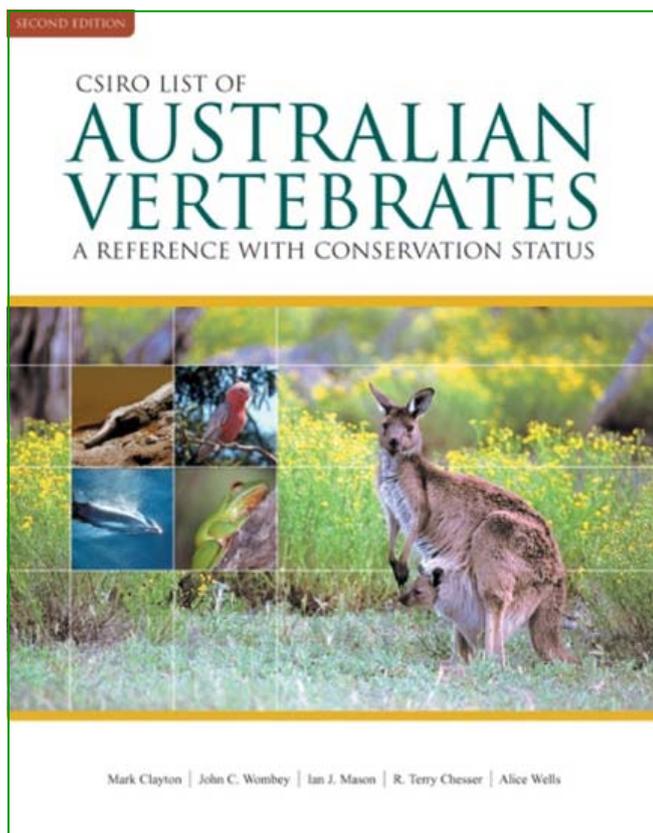
Photos © WRSC Gavin Swan and WRSC Robyn

A Book you may be interested in....

CSIRO List of Australian Vertebrates A Reference with Conservation Status

Second Edition

Mark Clayton, John C Wombey, Ian J Mason, R Terry Chesser, Alice Wells



Publisher's Description:

Winner of the 2006 Whitley Award for Best Conservation Resource

Tables, Bibliography, Index
168 pages, 270 x 210 mm
Publisher: CSIRO PUBLISHING

This completely updated edition gives the latest listings on conservation status for all known Australian amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. It indicates each species' status on a state-by-state basis and also gives details for subspecies. Additionally, it provides a 'one-stop-shop' listing of the correct species names for all Australian vertebrates.

It will be an indispensable reference tool and guide for all persons working with and publishing on Australia's vertebrate fauna, particularly those dealing in legal matters and environmental inventory and management programs.

Amendments:

Since publication, some information has been updated or corrected in the *CSIRO List of Australian Vertebrates*. A list of the amendments and revised pages are available as a pdf download in the Features tab.

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/5179.htm>

Blossom the Koala....

In February's Newsletter we featured 'Blossom' the koala in WRSC Care. The below photo on the left shows Blossom's wound when she came into care in November and on the right the healed wound 9 March.



Left Photo © Belinda Gales_November 2013



Below Photo © WRSC Robyn

Releasing our Koala "Blossom" - no time for goodbye!

A week into March whilst coming to the end of the time required for her wound to heal, "Blossom" our Koala, started showing quite obvious signs she was ready to go back to the wild. The otherwise sedate, quiet and docile nature of Blossom whilst she had been in care had begun to change. Blossom was seen walking around the base of her enclosure, as if to check the integrity of our work and to see if there was a way out! Blossom was also heard vocalising, whilst looking intently around at the trees on the outside of the enclosure. Attending Veterinarian Justin Clarke alerted National Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger department staff. Blossom was ready and physically fit for release back to the original National Park location nearby where she was found on private property, wandering aimlessly and injured in an open field some three months earlier.

The date was set, 18 March so the half a dozen or so of us carers that had worked tirelessly to collect her leaves and update her fresh supply daily had time to say their goodbyes beforehand. On the big day Adam and I were prepared. The aim was to remove Blossom from her comfy temporary enclosure and transport her to the release location without sedation, which would allow Blossom to be her most physically capable and alert upon release. Blossom was a good girl to handle, not putting up too much of a fight to go into her pet transport cage, which was good as it would have been harder on me and her, had she put up a big protest.



The road trip to her National Park home was smooth, however it was hard watching Blossom as we drove, as she did stress as she was unsure of the noise and movement surrounding her. The few times we stopped the vehicle to check how she was travelling, Blossom immediately stopped pacing in her cage. She did really well. We arrived to the site, and we all agreed on a nice stand of gums to pull up near. When we pulled up it was then just a matter of picking a big healthy tree, of which there were hundreds to choose from. I had said my goodbyes before we left home, which was lucky because Blossom didn't care too much for goodbyes when she realised she was again free.

Blossom looked at her surroundings for 5 seconds before she plunged onto it, and in true koala style careered up that trunk as fast as her now fat and healthy little frame could take her! Within a minute Blossom had scaled the more than 30m high eucalyptus and was perched precariously on its outer limbs, in a thick jostle of leaves. If we hadn't of kept watching, seen where she went you would have never known there was a koala up there.



The Ranger, Vet and us two carers were all proud as punch. We all went silent for a little while, as we watched the swaying leaves of the gums where Blossom had settled, in this beautiful part of the Shoalhaven deep within this picturesque National Park. I think the emotion of being a part of a team that helped this little girl recover from such a bad injury and to see her so healthy upon release, is a feeling that makes any amount of work worthwhile. A feeling of joy that you don't get every day. Blossom was a blessing to have cared for and we all wish her well, and hope as a threatened species she meets a mate and has lots of healthy babies in her life ahead.

Article WRSC Belinda Gales
Photos © WRSC Belinda Gales

A Facebook page you may be interested in....



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Animals Australia
the voice for animals

<https://www.facebook.com/AnimalsAustralia>

A Website you may be interested in....



<http://fame.org.au/>

FAME's vision is to prevent any further extinctions of Australian species.

FAME is the only organisation completely dedicated to helping Australian species most at risk of extinction.



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How to Rescue a Wombat

If a wombat is hit, injured or dead on the road, stop the vehicle and put on the hazard lights. If the wombat is still on the road use its front legs to turn it on its side or back and pull it to the road verge. If a joey is alive in the pouch and the wombat is pulled belly down, it may injure the joey.

At the roadside when you, your vehicle and passengers and the wombat are safe assess the situation.

If the wombat is a male, or a female without joey and they are dead, there is not much that can be done more than pulling the animal as far from the roadside as possible. Rescue organizations often spray such animals with paint so they know that the animal has been checked.

If the wombat is an adult and still alive the best course of action is to cover him or her with a blanket, towel or cloth and keep him or her quiet and dark. If possible, call Wildlife Rescue South Coast from the location and remain with the animal until a rescuer reaches the site.

If the wombat has to be left while making the phone call, it's very helpful for the rescuers to have details of exactly where the animal is. A cloth piece of material can be tied on a fence post, branch or a tree nearby.

Joeys

On the female, the pouch is found low on the belly towards the back legs. If the pouch is empty and her teats are small and compact, she has no joey. If the pouch is empty and a long teat protrudes, she had a joey at foot still suckling who would be hiding close by or the joey has been thrown out of the pouch by the impact of the vehicle. It is most likely the joey will try to return to the dead mother and the joey can then be caught. The grass and bushes can be searched nearby and if unsuccessful then mention it to Wildlife Rescue South Coast so their rescuer can attempt to find the joey.

Wombat joeys can live for many days in their mother's pouches after the female is killed. If the adult is dead and a live joey is in the pouch it can very gently be removed, but preferably a rescue organization should be involved. Removal of the joey should not be forced or yanking at the teat as it will cause damage to the joey's mouth and jaw. Instead use scissors or a knife and cut the teat, keeping the joey attached. Sometimes, removing a joey may also involve cutting the pouch. If this needs to be done, slip your hand into the pouch, cut above the hand to protect the joey making sure the joey does not sustain an injury.



How to Rescue a Wombat (Cont'd)

Once the joey is removed from the dead mother, it needs to be wrapped immediately in something made from soft natural fibres (wool, cotton, hemp) and kept warm, dark and quiet. Human body temperature is good for young wombats, particularly if the joey has been out overnight and is cold. At this point it needs to be left alone and kept warm, dark and quiet. *Get help immediately.*

Do not try to feed the joey anything. It will survive a lot longer without food than it will if given the wrong type of milk. Joeys coming into care following an attempt by untrained people to look after them usually die. They need rehydration, special marsupial milk, special teats to avoid inhalation pneumonia, correct temperature and those involved in vehicle collisions often need treatment for wounds and bruising. A wombat joey needs to be in appropriate facilities and under correct care between 18 – 24 months before it slowly can be soft-released to successfully survive and cope as a free living wombat.

It is illegal to keep a wombat without a permit from the relevant authority. If you have rescued a joey or have an injured wombat or know of the whereabouts of either please call Wildlife Rescue South Coast.

Article by WRSC Marie Wynan & Pinkie in WRSC Care © WRSC

Two 'Possum' books that may interest....



Possum Magic

Written by Mem Fox

Illustrated by Julie Vivas

Once upon a time, but not very long ago, deep in the Australian bush, there lived two possums. Their names were Hush and Grandma Poss. Grandma Poss made bush magic...

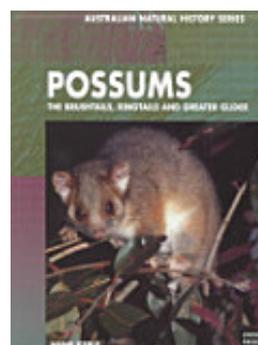
"I chose possums as the main characters for this book because we had possums on our roof and the babies were adorable."

Mem Fox

Left: Hush and Grandma Poss in Darwin, with the famous Vegemite sandwich.

Possums: The Brushtails, Ringtails and Greater Glider

Author	Anne Kerle
Edition	Illustrated
Publisher	UNSW Press, 2001
ISBN	0868404195, 9780868404196
Length	128 pages



Possums are familiar to many Australians, often taking up residence in our gardens and homes. It is the Common Brushtail Possum, the most abundant and widespread species, which most people know, but this is the first book devoted to describing the natural history of the 'larger' possums of Australia, the 13 species belonging to the Brushtail and Ringtail families, including the Greater Glider and the Cuscus.

MISSION: TRIVIA

KNOW ANY WILDLIFE TRIVIA, FACTS, TIPS, PHOTOS, EQUIPMENT, BOOKS, WEBSITES OR FACEBOOK PAGES THAT OTHER MEMBERS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN? SHARE THEM IN THE NEWSLETTER

EMAIL: [info @ wildlife-rescue.org.au](mailto:info@wildlife-rescue.org.au)
OR SNAIL MAIL: PO BOX 666 NOWRA NSW 2541

NB: Include names for articles and any photographs for acknowledgement purposes. If mailing photos please include a return address so we can get them back to you.

Did you know....?

Sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*)

The sugar glider was introduced into Tasmania in 1835, and remains the only species of glider in the state.

Sugar gliders earned their name from their love of eating nectar and flowers but they eat insects too. The scientific name *Petaurus breviceps* means short-headed rope dancer. The sugar glider is a marsupial, like a kangaroo or wombat.

The sugar glider is possibly the most commonly known of all the glider species in Australia. The sugar glider has 5 known subspecies. 2 subspecies are found in Papua New Guinea, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. The South Australian subspecies is *P.b. breviceps*, Queensland's subspecies is *P.b. longicaudatus*, and Northern Territory and Western Australia subspecies is *P.b. ariel*.

Description

The sugar glider's fur is a blue-grey to brown grey above with a dark stripe that extends from the middle of the head to the mid-back region. The tail can have a white tip whereas the squirrel glider never has a white tip. The face of the sugar glider is blunter than the squirrel glider as well. The glider is about the size of a rat, the tail is about the thickness of a human thumb and is slimmer than the squirrel glider. Sugar gliders have opposable fingers and toes.

Body measurements:

- ✦ Head-body length, 160-210 averaging 170 mm
- ✦ Tail length, 165-210 averaging 190 mm
- ✦ Weight, males 115-160 averaging 140 grams, females 95-135 averaging 115 grams.

The gliding membranes of a sugar glider are located from wrist to ankle and open up to slow the descent, much like a parachute. A sugar glider can change the curvature of the membrane by moving his legs to regulate his glide, and also uses his tail (which is as long as his body) like a rudder.

Habitat

- ✦ Occur in both wet and dry woodlands usually those with acacia present
- ✦ Depend on hollows for shelter
- ✦ Able to thrive in remnant patches of vegetation
- ✦ Have been successfully introduced into revegetated areas.



© WRSC Debbie Colbert

Life History

Sugar gliders live in large groups during winter to conserve energy and these large groups disband during the summer months. The sugar glider is also one of the largest marsupials that have been confirmed to enter torpor. They can enter torpor daily for 13 hours at a time on days that would require large amounts of energy to maintain body temperature - these days include rainy days where the food sources are likely to be washed away and severe cold events.

Breeding

Birth normally occurs 16 days after mating. This commonly takes place between August and December. Sugar gliders have 2 young per litter and can have 2 litters per year.

Males also assist with the care of the young; it is not all left to the females. Young are attached to the teat for 40 days, and emerge at 60-70 days. After emerging young are left in a nest for a further 50 days. Young will then forage with their mother until they are 7-10 months old.

Females reach sexual maturity at 8-15 months of age whereas males reach sexual maturity at 12 months of age.

Diet

The sugar glider's diet consists of insects, gums of wattle trees and eucalypt trees, manna (a white carbohydrate-rich crystalline substance that occurs on eucalyptus leaves), honeydew, nectar, pollen, sap, and invertebrates.

- ✦ It is estimated that a single colony can consume up to 200 kg of insects per year
- ✦ Small birds of both the wild and captive variety also appear to be on the menu
- ✦ They are not timid animals and will defend a food source aggressively against larger animals.

Home Range

The dominant male marks his territory with saliva and a scent produced by separate glands on his forehead and chest. Sugar gliders usually have a home range of about 0.5-7.1 hectares, and have a population density of between 0.01-6.1 individuals per hectare. Native predators in their range include kookaburras, owls, goannas, snakes and quolls.

Distribution

The sugar glider is the most widespread of all the glider species and the most widespread of all arboreal marsupials in Australia. Occur in every state and territory of Australia, however is largely confined to the coastal strips of Australia. It was introduced into Tasmania in 1835, occurs in New Guinea and other various neighbouring islands.

Threats

- ✪ Feral Predators such as cats, foxes, and dogs
- ✪ Habitat clearing
- ✪ Habitat fragmentation.

Conservation Status

- ✪ National: not listed
- ✪ IUCN: Least Concern.

Mitigation Practices

- ✪ Installation of glider poles
- ✪ Installation of nest boxes.

© WRSC Debbie Colbert



http://www.wildlife.org.au/wildlife/speciesprofile/mammals/gliders/sugar_glider.html

Potoroos and Truffles

Both the Long-footed and the Long-nosed Potoroos love truffles. Australia has over 300 species of truffles. They are the fruits of the underground fungi. Truffles can be as big as a cricket ball or as small as a fingernail and they come in all colours.

The underground fungi grow on the roots of plants as a vast network of thin fibres. They give trees protection from disease and provide nitrogen and phosphorus (both lacking in Australian soils). The trees give the underground fungi carbohydrates (their food) which they are unable to make themselves by photosynthesis because they have no green leaves above the surface.

The potoroos with their sensitive noses, find and eat the fruits of the underground fungi (the truffles), then spread the fungus spores around the forest in their poo. The spores can then grow into more networks of underground fungi on the roots of trees.

Scientists have tried to grow the spores in the laboratory without success. The spores need to go through the body of a Potoroo! A few other native animals eat truffles but Potoroos are the most important consumer. We need Potoroos for a healthy forest.



<http://www.potoroopalace.com/our-animals/long-nosed-potoroos/>

Article by Alexandra Seddon

Founder and patron of Potoroo Palace

Footnote: The potoroo is a kangaroo-like marsupial about the size of a rabbit. It is a macropod. All three extant species are threatened, especially the long-footed Potoroo (Endangered) and Gilbert's potoroo (Critically Endangered). The main threats are predation by introduced species (especially foxes) and habitat loss.

A potoroo is a member of the genus *Potorous*.

Suborder: Macropodiformes
Family: Potoroidae
Subfamily: Potoroinae

The sad 'Bum tree' story



All photos © WRSC Lindsay Francis

The Project Manager from Shoalhaven City Council contacted WRSC in February to attend and assist at the felling of the bum tree at Gerroa as it had many hollows and was suspected to have possums residing therein. The Council's Assistant Threatened Species Officer Nicole (also a WRSC member) would be in attendance to assist.

Obviously like many others WRSC did not want to see this habitat tree come down at all but nor did we want any animals found therein to be injured during the process.

After a couple of false starts due to rain, protestors on site for weeks before and then advising Council they would take court action to stop the tree coming down (which did not eventuate) the date was set for Thursday and Friday 13 & 14 March to proceed.

Three WRSC members, Jenny, Debbie and Lindsay, arrived at 8.00 am on Thursday to find protestors chained to the trees, police trying to convince them to move, council employees and tree fellers standing around a massive crane set up in one lane of the road. And of course TV, radio and newspaper personnel added to the foray. Protestors were yelling at us all and it was a very intimidating encounter that none of us had experienced before.

Work finally started around 10.30 am, the tree fellers checked and securely covered each hollow in the tree before cutting it close to the trunk. Each and every branch was chained and lifted by the huge crane and lowered slowly to the ground where we inspected every branch and hollow. It wasn't long before we noticed something jump into the bag that was secured to the end of a large hollow being lowered. We all held our breath as it was so far up in the air. Fortunately this was the very reason we had placed secure bags over each hollow but had not really expected to see them serve their purpose. Once on the ground we discovered a beautiful glider in the bag and then realised we had another one still in the hollow. It was a tense few minutes trying to extract the glider from the hollow and put it safely into the carry cage with the other one.

Work was halted on the site pending a correct identification. Yellow bellied gliders are very similar to Greater glider and often misidentified. These two were Greater gliders and both male. We removed the gliders from the very noisy environment carefully installing them in a quiet private enclosure in a secret location to avoid undue stress for both them and us. NPWS had been called by Council to confirm identification. We were all very emotional and upset that they had had to be removed from their den tree in such a fashion as they are such very shy animals.

The discovery of the two gliders only made the protestors more determined in their endeavours to stop the tree coming down and all on site were subjected to heckling and yelling throughout the rest of the day. Work recommenced and continued as before - cover the hollows, lower by crane to the ground and check every nook and cranny. This continued for the rest of the day and we rescued three Sugar gliders and 18 Peron's tree frogs all uninjured. The frogs were relocated to a more suitable area nearby, with the majority of them still in their hollows. The sugar gliders were safely released by Lindsay later that night in a safe bushy area close by.

The Greater gliders however needed to have their tree hollow renovated and waterproofed and this was done by Council. After discussions with NPWS, Council and ourselves, the hollow was placed and securely strapped in a specifically chosen tree within the National Park on the other side of the road. It had to be the same type of tree with no other hollows that could possibly harbour owls or other possums and still be within their home range. The chosen tree was about 100 meters away on the opposite side of the road.

On returning to the bum tree site on Friday for a 7.00 am start we were again confronted with protestors needing to be removed from beside the tree before being able to start. Eventually the remaining section of the tree was removed with a few more Peron's tree frogs, making the total collected 22 all from the one tree. In all there were 25 hollows in this majestic tree. What a horrific outcome for the tree and the animals that had called it their home. We

were all physically and mentally exhausted and upset with some of the comments that had been aimed at us. It seems everyone in the audience thought they were more of an expert on relocation of gliders than we were. To be honest at least they were passionate about the tree and its inhabitants even if their comments were causing us undue distress.

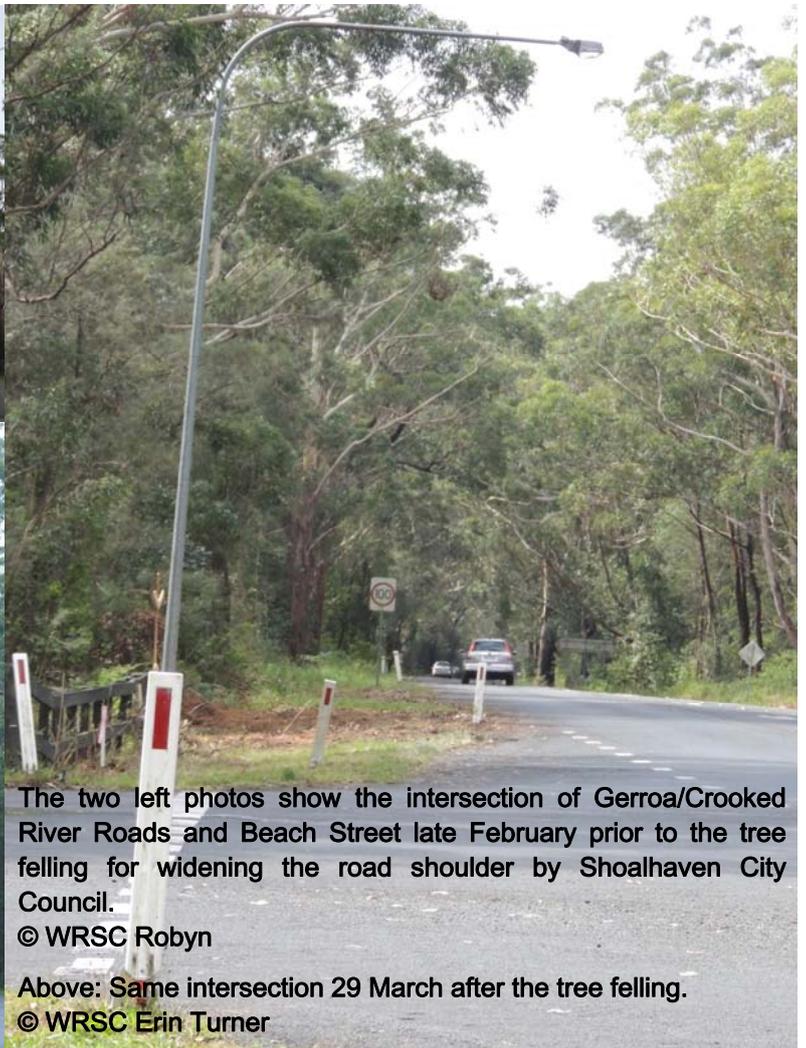
After the demise of the bum tree, the tree fellers finished for the day and departed. However we had further work to do. A & D Tree Services had brought a large cherry picker to the site to enable the gliders' old hollow to be strapped up into the chosen tree earlier and it was now our turn to transfer them to their new/old home. We retrieved the gliders from their secret hideaway returning to Gerroa at 5.30pm for the mission. Debbie and Jenny were the obvious ones to go up in the cherry picker with the gliders which was a rather daunting task with NPWS and others watching. NPWS had also supplied an infra-red camera to keep a watch on the hollow over the next few months so we will continue to get feedback on how the relocation went.

All went smoothly, up went the cherry picker, Debbie placed some leaves from the gliders' overnight housing into the hollow, and then placed the gliders in, one at a time, lightly sealing the entrance with more of the leaves which also had their smell on them. We waited breathlessly to see any movement, expecting them to jump out at us escaping into the bush and we both think we would have burst into tears if this had happened. The tension was so great. Debbie and Jenny were lowered slowly to the ground, then the cherry picker was removed and we stood there for what seemed an eternity, waiting for a glider to come out. But they stayed inside. Nicole, Council's Assistant Threatened Species Officer, monitored the nest hollow for the next five nights and was delighted to report that each night she had seen at least one glider emerging from the hollow, and definitely two around the hollow.

Sadly it was whilst we were watching and waiting at the new gliders' hollow, we were advised that a dead greater glider with half its tail missing had been found in Beach Road earlier in the day, not too far from the bum tree and handed to NPWS who had taken it to the vet for a report to be provided as a matter of urgency. It is believed the deceased glider died as a consequence of the tree coming down but we are at a loss to understand how it happened as all hollows were checked and sealed off before being cut and lowered. With so many eyes watching every movement and action of the tree fellers that we are sure somebody would have seen it emerging.

What we can say though, is that it was a very emotional roller coaster for us all and a sad, sorry end to a magnificent habitat tree.

Article by Debbie Colbert, Jenny Packwood, Lindsay and Erin Francis



The two left photos show the intersection of Gerroa/Crooked River Roads and Beach Street late February prior to the tree felling for widening the road shoulder by Shoalhaven City Council.

© WRSC Robyn

Above: Same intersection 29 March after the tree felling.

© WRSC Erin Turner

Wildlife Rescue South Coast was seen on the front cover of

South Coast Register

Bat woman on heroic mission to save lives

By ADAM WRIGHT March 12, 2014, 6:30 a.m.

<http://www.southcoastregister.com.au/story/2143341/bat-woman-on-heroic-mission-to-save-lives/?cs=203>



Register support was invaluable

March 14, 2014, 6 a.m.

WILDLIFE Rescue South Coast Inc. is one of many organisations dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation and hopeful preservation of our native wildlife.

Without the support of organisations like yours our task would be so much more difficult or impossible.

During the recent pre-Christmas bushfires our organisation attempted to assist these devastated areas both physically and financially. We raised almost \$600 from this appeal.

Last January, your assistance in advertising our book sale resulted in us receiving many donations of books. The event raised over \$1600 – our most successful yet.

For our organisation to succeed we needed to obtain public support. This requires awareness and it is in this area the support from your organisation was so effective that we are able to contribute to the welfare of our native animals.

We therefore wish to express our gratitude for your support, which we know can be relied upon but never taken for granted.

J. Weatherall

President

Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc.

<http://www.southcoastregister.com.au/story/2149007/register-support-was-invaluable/>

Wet weather brings out the snakes

March 31, 2014, 6 a.m.

IT has been a busy few days for local snake expert Dusty Jones thanks to the recent wet weather.

He has received calls from Berry in the north and down to Wandandian in the south from people wanting snakes to be removed.

The wet weather causes the snakes to come out of their burrows because they are seeking warmth.

Mr Jones said his calls were mostly to remove red belly black snakes but he also had two pythons in his truck on Friday.

A Nowra resident also found a small tiger snake on his property last week.

“Yes we call them small venomous snakes – not baby snakes,” Mr Jones said.

The tiger snake was about 45 centimetres in length and because of the cold weather it was docile and not aggressive.

“We warn people that just because they are docile that does not mean they are not dangerous,” Mr Jones said.

His advice – leave snakes alone and they will leave you alone. Do not poke them with sticks.

He was unhappy with a resident who hit a snake with a shovel this week.

The reptile’s back was broken and it had to be put down.

<http://www.southcoastregister.com.au/story/2185092/wet-weather-brings-out-the-snakes/?cs=203>





Ned knows to keep that coiffure he needs his carotoids.

Who said I'm a granivore?

Article and Photos ~ Chris Lloyd

Meet Ned a young Gang Gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*). Ned is happily chewing on a carrot, a vegetable that is devilishly difficult to find in the wild in general but particularly at the top of the sandstone mountains which is the species common habitat. Ned is the excuse to talk about diet and what we mean when we say a species or family of birds is a 'granivore' or 'insectivore'.

So Ned is a granivorous parrot and therefore we feed him seeds- right? Well, not quite. There are two issues here. The first is whether Ned is an orphaned or injured chick or an injured or ill adult. The adult can be hard to house, difficult to handle and will suffer significant stress simply from being in captivity. However one thing we don't have to be concerned about is ensuring that an adult knows how forage appropriately for its species. No prisoner forgets what a baked dinner is even after a life sentence so neither will an adult bird.

So feeding an adult Ned who is in for an illness or injury is a question of nutrition and convenience not learning appropriate wild foods. There is also considerable evidence that even with frequent contact with human food, such as people feeding in backyards, many species still prefer native foods (*Ishigame & Baxter, 2007*).

This may lead you to force feed an adult captive with totally foreign products in order to keep the bird healthy during rehabilitation. For example a colleague has a Black-shouldered Kite in for a wing injury for a few weeks and in order to ensure some nutritional balance (as well as cutting the prohibitive cost of rats and mice) she is feeding it mince/insectivore wrapped in rice paper. The food is cheap, nutritious and easy to force feed. About half the raptors I have dealt with will actually self feed on these proxy mice if I use a little imagination in rolling them (*see Photo 2*).

Another example, very useful in a country branch like Wedlach, is the use of canned sardines in soy oil to feed pelagic seabirds like albatross. University analysis established that this product is just as effective as a rearing diet for translocated wild birds as far more complex and difficult to store formulas (*Bell 2004 & Taylor, 2001*). To the best of my knowledge none of these birds have flown straight to the IGA looking for canned sardines or dim sims. The Australian Kestrel in photo 2 went straight for the cicadas and Noisy Minors in my local park and continues this practice two years later.

Orphaned chicks present us with a completely different set of issues. They are much easier to handle, house and feed because they are just like us. We, and birds, are behavioural learners where nurture probably plays a more critical role than nature and our early formative period may pattern our later life significantly. So Ned had little problem getting used to a crop needle (he swallows it), being moved from cage to aviary to being fed and living with people because he had little hard wiring to suggest this was not normal for a Gang Gang. However for Ned to be released he needs to know what to eat and it can't be just seed, no matter how native.

In the wild Gang Gangs mix it up with a lot of fresh seed from eucalypts and acacias but also significant amounts of native and exotic small fruit and nuts and insects and their larvae. They are known to pick at insect pupae to extract and delicately eat the larvae (*Higgins, 1999*). So Ned is a bit of granivore/frugivore/insectivore and he is no exception in either parrots or birds generally.

Honeyeaters are typical of this issue. They range through a scale from larger species such as Minors which probably eat up to 60% insects through to Spinebills which are heavily insectivorous. So your adult honeyeater will benefit from either some live mealworms or beetles or mince/insectivore as well as the old standby of nectivore. Currawongs are seasonally fussy buggers who are happy with fruit and some insects for much of the year but become fanatic carnivores when they are breeding or moulting in order to get the protein.

The idea of categories such as nectivore or carnivore is more analogous to a staple food or core component of diet. It should not be taken the sole source of nutrition unless one knows this is the case. Very few land species eat one type of food. Raptors may seem to be strictly meat eaters but in reality they are receiving the gut contents of herbivorous prey, the viscera (liver, kidneys etc) and are probably getting quite a few parasitic insects as by-catch. The same applies to seabirds when they eat whole fish (many of which are herbivorous).

If you are rearing a Glossy Black Cockatoo (half your luck) check out what, other than large banksias, they eat out there. You will be surprised as Black Cockys have an important ecological role in forest where their desire for big fat grubs leads them to destroying certain trees and shrubs – the ones infested in the first place. They are the unpaid arborists or pruners of our landscape which go around dealing with unhealthy foliage. So it will need to see some serious insect protein while it is growing up and if it's an adult it will need something similar to maintain body condition.

As you could see from the picture Ned is a little too used to human company, an artifact of his kidnappers, and will spend the rest of his life in a not-for-profit sanctuary.

P.S. You never seem to escape wildlife care – check out this video taken while we were doing seabird surveys on the Barrier Reef in January - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_H4iDvqIYY4



Don't tell her but that is not a real mouse in the left foot!

JUDGMENT

WHALING IN THE ANTARCTIC

(AUSTRALIA v JAPAN: NEW ZEALAND INTERVENING)



Young Humpback Jervis Bay 2013 © WRSC Wendy McFarlane

On the 31 March 2014 Australia supported by New Zealand won a landmark court case against Japan and the continuation of the scientific whaling program 'Jarpa II'. Below is the link that will take you to the court papers. Take a little time to have a read and reflect on the significance of Australia and New Zealand's involvement in this hard fought battle.



International Court of Justice
Judgment of the court

La Cour internationale de Justice (CIJ), qui a son siège à La Haye, est l'organe judiciaire principal des Nations Unies



The International Court of Justice (ICJ), which has its seat in The Hague, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations

Some Stats.....

Membership

Some interesting statistics on our membership:

- ☺ Total number of members is currently 201*
- Of these:
- ☺ 188 are paid up members
- ☺ 13 are Life Members (with WRSC from the start)
- ☺ 117 have been approved as carers
- ☺ 84 are 'passive' (NOT authorised to care)
- ☺ 68 are male and 133 are female

Where we live:

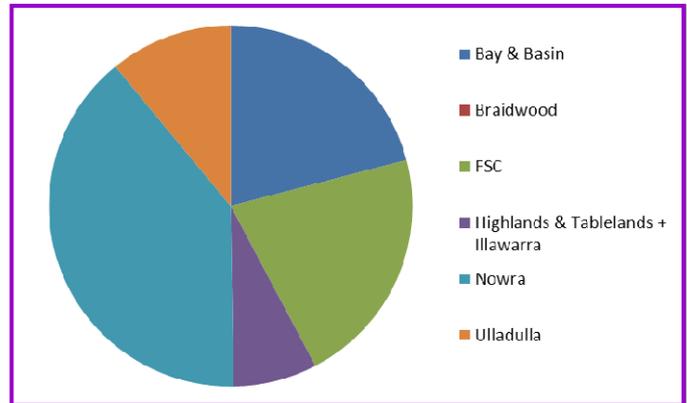
	Bay & Basin	42
	Braidwood	0
	Far South Coast	43
	Highlands, Tablelands & Illawarra	15
	Nowra	79
	Ulladulla	22

We communicate to:

- 134 people via email
- 22 by snail mail
- ☺ 42 read their partner's mail
- ☹ 3 have requested that no emails be sent

* 22 March 2014

Source: Joy Weatherall (Database Administrator)



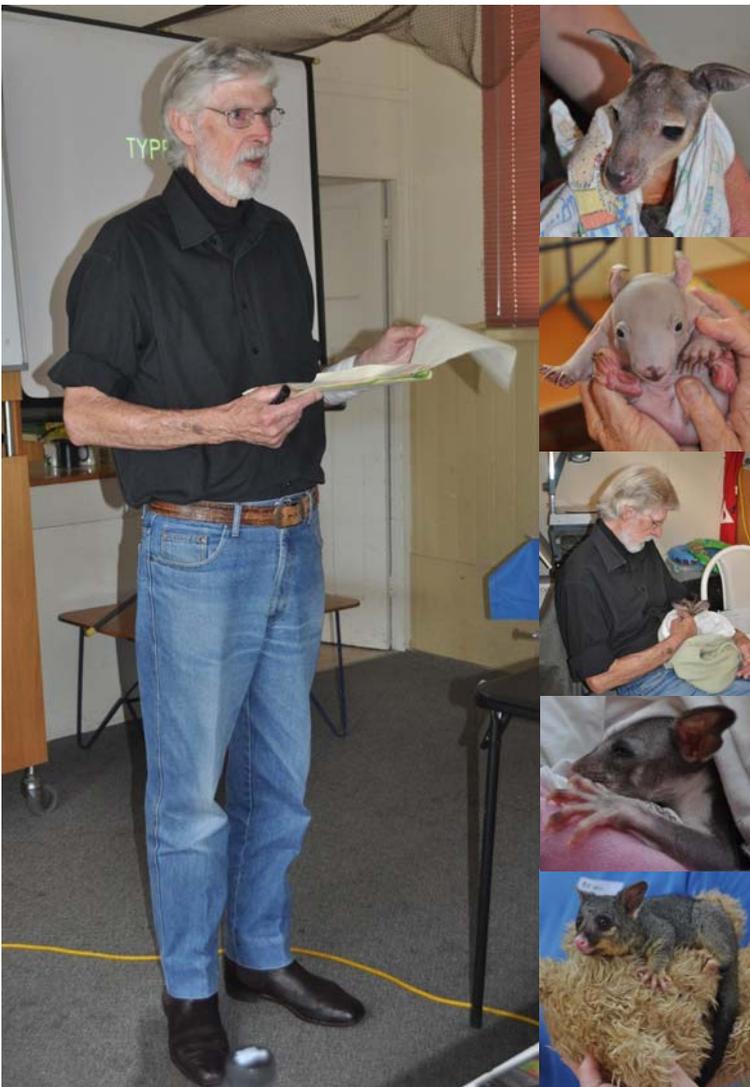
Protect Ballina's koalas from the bulldozers

The current plans for the upgrade of the Pacific Highway in NSW may destroy a critical koala colony in Ballina. The proposed route would run straight through the middle of a nationally significant koala population in the Blackwall Range wildlife corridor, known to be a linchpin colony, and vital for the survival of coastal koalas. This wildlife hotspot is also home to another 30 threatened or endangered species that will also be put at risk.

Visit IFAW website who is supporting local group Friends of the Koala and others to find out how you can help:

<http://www.ifaw.org/australia/get-involved/protect-ballinas-koalas-bulldozers?ms=AONDR140318003&cid=701F000000Qv2F>





**Wound and Pain Management
Training Day
Dr Howard Ralph and Tania Duratovic
Huskisson Anglican Church Hall
7 March 2014**

A huge 'thank you' to Dr Howard and Tania for making the trip down from Braidwood to conduct this valuable training, sharing their experience and knowledge with an interested audience that benefitted from all the advice.

Congratulations to Debbie Colbert (WRSC Possum Coordinator) for arranging and organising the day and venue. Dr Ralph was not the only one who travelled a distance to attend, to name a few ~ Belinda came from Cowra, Woody and Kerstin from the highlands, and Kathy travelled up from Cuttagee.

The wildlife were also there to hear Dr Ralph's recommendations with numerous representatives of joeys, possums and the pinkie wombat. Morning tea and lunch weren't just for the members to take a breather but a chance for the carers to feed their chargers and ask Dr Ralph for his professional advice on some of the youngsters.

Most of the topics prior to lunch addressed wound management ~ the type of wounds, their causes and dressings. Getting appropriate treatment to the wounded wildlife sooner rather than later is the 'golden rule' for wound healing. After lunch the training focussed on the many ways to control pain. The importance was placed on 'comfort' for the patient and the role of carers in the recovery process. A memorable day!

All Photos © WRSC

POSITIONS VACANT

Re-advertised Positions:

**PRESIDENT
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
GRANTS OFFICER**

**RPSCA bimonthly
lawn mowing roster**

To maintain the grass area around our storage container we need volunteers. Please contact a committee member if you can help out.

June Bill Parker
August Dusty Jones



Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference Hobart

to be held at

**The Hotel Grand Chancellor in
Hobart**

27 to 30 May 2014

The theme is

**New Directions: Accommodating
Change**

<http://awrchobart2014.org/>

Are you interested in assisting at these 2014 events? Email info@wildlife-rescue.org.au

Date	Event	Coordinator
Second Saturday of every month	Bowral School Markets	Woody
This event had been transferred from April to October	Wingecarribee Community & Emergency Services Expo	Woody



Koala Rescue & Rehabilitation Training by Barb Dobner from "Friends of the Koala" Lismore NSW

Includes basic koala biology, assessment in the wild, rescue techniques, handling & transportation, vet assessment, care including housing, supplements, common medication regimes and ongoing assessment procedures, koala food (leaf) collection & preferred feed tree identification.

Koala Code of Practice, ID and release in consultation with NPWS.

Sunday 13th April 2014

9.30 am — 4.00 pm

Bredbo Hall

Cost \$20 covers morning tea and lunch.
Training Manual extra \$15

An overview of the local koala population between Cooma and Canberra, which is covered by LAOKO 6456 1313 and Wildcare 6299 1966 wildlife rescue groups will be provided.

Bookings essential & pre-payment of course fee
email: twothumbs@live.com.au
other info phone Koala Co-ordinator 0448 066 304



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PURCHASE NOW

The NEW 2014 | 2015 NSW South Coast Entertainment™ Membership is now ready to pre-order, and this year you have a choice of:

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-OR-

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From every Entertainment™ Membership we sell, \$11 goes towards our fund-raising! The more Entertainment™ Memberships we sell, the more we raise – so please tell your family and friends. Just remember to reference **Wildlife Rescue South Coast** when registering your 2014 | 2015 Entertainment™ Membership via this link!
<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/28010r3>



If you missed downloading the first three Wildlife Rescue South Coast Newsletters of 2014 now located under the website's home page tab is the 'Newsletter Archives' page. This page will be updated monthly. In the members only section of the website the 'Who's who' & contact pages have had important changes. The committee report, events and education are also updated monthly so please visit www.wildlife-rescue.org.au on a regular basis.



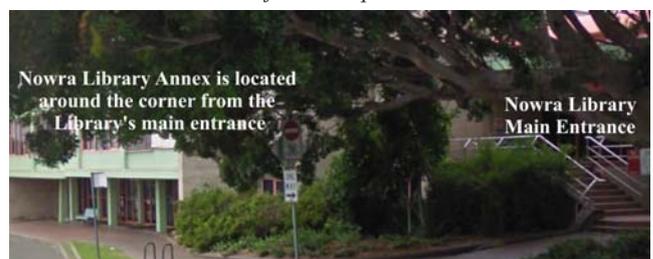
Meeting Dates 2014

- 8 May Committee Meeting
- 14 May General Meeting
- 5 June Committee Meeting
- 11 June General Meeting



Wildlife Rescue South Coast
General Meetings
start at 7pm

Library Annex, 10 Berry Street, Nowra
Refreshments provided



Nowra Library Annex is located
around the corner from the
Library's main entrance

Nowra Library
Main Entrance



Australian Government

Department of the Environment

It was reported in the March Newsletter that Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc. was successful in receiving a Grant from the Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESH0) 2013/14 programme.

The \$1500 will be used towards administrative expenses such as telephone and the printing of training manuals for new members.

Seabird Enclosure

Well done to Pam Russell, who has raised \$1200 in her local community for the construction of a seabird enclosure. If anyone has contacts who can assist with the required materials, then please contact Pam directly (or via email to info@wildlife-rescue.org.au).



Chocolates

Everybody's favourites!

The FSC team are selling Cadbury chocolates – please contact Marie or Sandra for more details.

We are looking for volunteers to give Community talks!

Invitations to speak at schools, community groups and service clubs to participate in local community events continue to come in. If you would like to give up some time to help at these events, all you need is a passion for what we do and be prepared to talk for 20 to 40 minutes.

Why not ask a fellow member to form a team with you, it can be fun for all concerned.

Our thanks go to Belinda who has attended many of these occasions in the past, but may no longer be available.

World Enviro Day - Huskisson

The event held at the Lady Denman Museum is always a great social day. This year it is being held on Saturday 7 June. Jenny will be coordinating the event and Dusty will be there with some snakes. More details to come.....



Photographic Exhibition

Plans to hold exhibitions of wildlife photography by photographer Warren Wilson, at Bowral and Huskisson are progressing well. These have the potential to become major fund raisers for WRSC, so please support Woody and the committee in the planning of these events.

The Huskisson event will be part of the bi-annual See Change Festival from 16 May to 9 June 2014. The festival is looking very exciting with over 40 events in the 3 weeks and 4 weekends.

Bundanoon Winterfest:

Woody is looking at how his Southern Highlands & Southern Tablelands team can become involved in this festival from 27 June to 6 July . Please let Woody know if you want to be involved.



⇒ Car door magnets

⇒ High Visibility safety vests

⇒ 3D postcards

⇒ Plastic carry baskets

We welcome these New Members:

Robert Simpson
Jasmine Brett
Ian Hendley

Berrara
Batemans Bay
Moruya



*“Introduction to Rescuing Wildlife
&
Introduction to Rescue Telephone”*



The new ‘Introduction to Rescuing Wildlife & Rescue Telephone’ course has been debuted and has been well received. Thanks to Debbie, Jenny and Kim who have worked very hard to complete this. Please contact Jenny to register your interest to attend the course.



The next Introductory Courses will be held:

Southern Highlands (contact Woody)-----27 April
Far South Coast (contact Amanda or Marie) ---- 3 May in Bega



Training:

We are looking at training in the following areas:

Koala Care

Reptile Care

Bird & Possum care for the FSC members



Be a Buddy:

For those recently joined members who wish to get ‘carer’s experience’, and who may not have the time, or facilities to fully care for animals themselves, why not consider helping out one of our other carers who may be very busy at this time of year. This is the quickest way to learn the tips and tricks of caring for specific animals, and is a great way to get used to handling these precious creatures. Try contacting your area or species coordinator for the name of someone near you who may appreciate a helping hand or some relief from time to time. Caring for baby birds, possums, wombats, wallabies, flying foxes is usually ‘full-on’ no matter the time of year.

Logging at Glenbog:

Marie, Ray and the team from the FSC have been communicating with various local organisations in regard to the protection of wombat and other native animals which may be under threat from this logging. Thanks Marie for taking a stance in this matter, and we hope that you are getting the required cooperation from all concerned.

2014 COMMITTEE

President

Position Vacant

Vice President

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batsgalore@shoalhaven.net.au

Treasurer

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Birds South

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Flying Foxes and Microbats

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Small Mammals and Echidnas

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billrhon1@bigpond.com



Threatened Species

Jenny Packwood0418 497 345
packwoodcj1@bigpond.com



Wombats

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0438 434 877
babywombats@bigpond.com

Cold snaps to take big toll on tiny creatures

Reproduced with Permission
Source: GreenCareer 26 March 2014
<http://www.greencareer.net.au/newsletter/>

Research suggests extreme spikes in weather will soon take a massive toll on bugs and other small creatures.

Future episodes of extreme weather will lead to mass extinctions of insects and reptiles in the next century, according to a new study.

“The study revealed that extreme temperatures will determine the future distribution of insects, rather than increases in the average temperature,” said Professor Ary Hoffmann from the University of Melbourne.

Cold-blooded species like insects, spiders and skinks are collectively referred to as ‘ectotherms’ as they rely on the environment to regulate body temperature, and so are more vulnerable to environmental changes.

“With more extreme weather expected in the future due to climate change, our study indicates we are going to see substantial extinctions of some ectothermic species in the next 50 years or so.

“Such losses would not only pose a great threat to biodiversity, but also destabilise entire ecosystems,” said Professor Hoffmann

Tiny ectotherms including bees, worms and spiders provide services that are essential for both the health of ecosystems and the viability of agriculture; pollination, pest control, and soil turnover.

In the new study [published by Global Change Biology](#), a team examined in unprecedented detail ten Australian fruit fly species of the *Drosophila* genus from both temperate and tropical regions of the east coast.

First, the team determined the temperatures at which the species could develop and reproduce and their limits of tolerance for hot and cold temperatures.

From these results and the present distribution of the fruit fly species, they then examined whether the present distribution of the species correlated with the temperatures required for growth and reproduction, or whether in fact their distribution was limited by weather extremes.

The results clearly indicated that distribution of the species was defined by their tolerance to unusually hot or cold days.

While temperate species are more able to adapt to changes in average temperature than tropical species, extreme weather poses an equal threat to both.

“The research implies that extreme events – even though they don't last very long – can have a very large impact on whether a species is going to into a decline or not,” Professor Hoffmann said.



Please drive carefully
these school holidays
and the Easter/
ANZAC day long
weekends so
we can all have a

Happy
Easter

