



July 2015

Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc
PO Box 666 Nowra NSW 2541

NPWS Licence No: MWL000100253 | ABN 49 616 307 526

E: info@wildlife-rescue.org.au | W: www.wildlife-rescue.org.au

0418 427 214 Wollongong to Batemans Bay | 0417 238 921 Mogo to Victorian Border

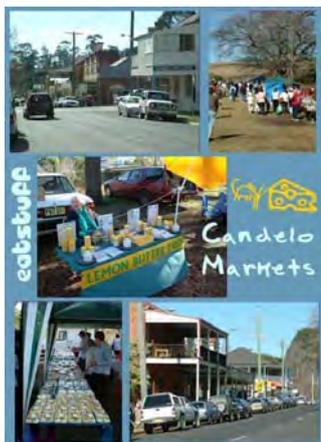


*If you see injured wildlife please ring us
or your local wildlife rescue group.*

*If you see dead wildlife please stop
and check for joeys.*

Please Help Us Help Wildlife throughout 2015.

Visit the WRSC display stall at.....



Candelo Markets....

Held on the first Sunday of every month in the Candelo township. The largest market on the Sapphire Coast with a field full of stalls and a strong focus on local produce and old wares.

Hours: 8.30am to 12.30pm

Bowral Markets

Every 2nd Saturday of the month

Bowral Public School

Bendooley Street, Bowral

between 8am and 1pm.

Bermagui Markets....

The Bermagui Hand & Homemade Market is held on the last Sunday of every month in Dickinson Park.

Specialises in handmade, homemade and local produce.

From 8.30 – 12.30pm.



July Cover Photo

Eastern Grey Kangaroos © Kellie Dene, My Wild Life.

Used with permission.

Want to submit a rescue story, photographs, a quote, or share a website, Facebook page or tip?

Email: newsletter@wildlife-rescue.org.au

or snail mail

Wildlife Rescue South Coast Newsletter

PO Box 666 Nowra NSW 2541

Species Co-ordinators

Birds North

(Wollongong, Southern Highlands, Kiama, Nowra)

Judy Bailey 4423 2295 / 0407 946 173
judith.bailey4@bigpond.com

Birds South

(Bay and Basin, Sussex, Batemans Bay, Moruya, Southern Tablelands)

Jenny Packwood 0418 497 345
packwoodcjl@bigpond.com

Flying Foxes and Microbats

All of the WRSC licensed area

Gerry Hawkins 0414 931 452
batsgalorez@gmail.com (Note new email)

Macropods

Kiama to Batemans Bay & inland to Braidwood

Kim Goodsell 4422 4453 / 0488 996 604
kimgoodsell.kg@gmail.com

Far South Coast

Marie Wynan 6454 6257
wynan@activ8.net.au

Southern Highlands/Tablelands, Kangaroo Valley, Wollongong to Kiama

Kerstin Schweth 4885 2008 / 0413 768 656
kerstin.schweth@gmail.com

Possums and Gliders

All of the WRSC licensed area

Debbie Colbert 4441 5948 / 0403 305 948
colbertd@westnet.com.au

Far South Coast

Kathy Mincher 6493 5639 / 0407 173 305

Raptors

All of the WRSC licensed area

Jenny Packwood 0418 497 345
packwoodcjl@bigpond.com

Reptiles, Snakes and Amphibians

All of the WRSC licensed area

Jane Mills 4421 7883 / 0407 297 264
janemills@shoalhaven.net.au

Small Mammals and Echidnas

All of the WRSC licensed area

Judy Bailey 4423 2295 / 0407 946 173
judith.bailey4@bigpond.com

Threatened Species

All of the WRSC licensed area

Jenny Packwood 0418 497 345
packwoodcjl@bigpond.com

Wombats

North of Batemans Bay

Shirley Lack 4443 4877 / 0438 434 877
babywombats@bigpond.com

Co-Ord in Training North of Batemans Bay

Lyn Obern 0432 346 641
lynobern@bigpond.com

Far South Coast

Marie Wynan 6454 6257
wynan@activ8.net.au



Won't you join us?

**Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc
Annual General Meeting
12 August 2015 starting at 7pm
Library Annex,
10 Berry Street, Nowra
Refreshments provided**

Full details will be posted to all members by 12 July 2015 which will include nomination forms and proxy voting forms.

- The Association must at least once in each calendar year and within the period of 6 months after the expiration of each financial year of the association, convene an AGM of its members.
- At this Annual General Meeting all committee positions (as below) become vacant and are therefore open to nominations.
- Any member wishing to nominate for any of these positions are required to complete the Nomination Form and post to the Secretary or Treasurer by 7pm Wednesday 29 July 2015.

All members completing and signing forms must be financial prior to the date of the AGM.

2014/2015 COMMITTEE

President

Jo Evans..... 0411 500 621
jevans@accsoft.com.au

Vice President

Dusty Jones..... 0423 958 059
snakeremovals@live.com

Treasurer

Joy Weatherall.....4443 3272
0417 677 917
noddysview@bigpond.com

Correspondence Secretary

Presently Vacant

Minute Secretary

Lindsay Francis 0417 228 478
lindsayfrancis@hotmail.com

General Committee

Debbie Colbert 4441 5948
0403 305 948
colbertd@westnet.com.au

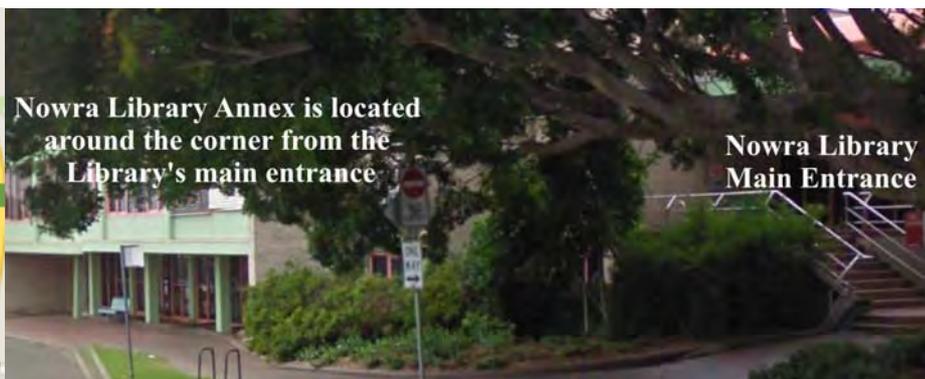
Kim Goodsell..... 4422 4453
0488 996 604
kimgoodsell.kg@gmail.com

Nikki Hunter0450 077 747
n.e.hunter@hotmail.com

Jenny Packwood0418 497 345
packwoodcj1@bigpond.com

Richard Woodman
(Woody)..... 4885 2008
0412 002 400
richard.woodman7000@gmail.com

All Non-Committee Positions will become vacant at the end of September and members are invited to apply in writing in the first instance to the President/Secretary prior to 1 September 2015. The incoming committee will then select the successful candidates from these applications at their first meeting in September and be finalised by 1 October 2015.



Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project

Update - June 2015

G'day koala-friends,

Just thought I would give everyone a brief update on where things are at in regards to the Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project... exciting stuff happening!

In April, we completed 4 days of habitat assessment across the shire. This was in preparation for the GPS collaring project which aims to use the latest technology to track 10-15 koalas in the Southern Highlands region, and will help tell us where koalas live and breed and the habitat corridors that they are using to move between colonies.

After an extensive ethics approval process, it is with great excitement that we can inform you that GPS collaring got underway earlier this month, under the expert guidance of wildlife ecologist George Madani, staff from the Office of Environment & Heritage and wildlife vets from the University of Sydney. The first koala selected to carry a GPS collar was a 9.2kg male in good condition located in the Alpine area (see pic below). Over the coming weeks and months, we hope to track up to 15 koalas in a similar way, with the data being used to help with a broad range of research covering wildlife ecology, health and genetics, in addition to improving vegetation mapping to assist with future land use planning and management.

What now?

The researchers need your help! Now that collaring is underway, we really need all our local koala-spotters to be on **HIGH ALERT** and if you do happen to spot one in the Wingecarribee Shire, **PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY**. This is so that we can quickly contact the appropriate people to come out to look at the koala and assess its suitability for tracking.

Contact immediately to report a sighting:

- **Koala Hotline** 4868 0888
- **Council Facebook page** www.facebook.com/WingecarribeeShireCouncil
- **Joe Stammers** Wingecarribee Shire Council: Mob 0427 422 702
- **Kylie Madden** Office of Environment & Heritage: Mob 0432 883 606
- **Lachlan Willmot** Office of Environment & Heritage: Mob 0411 170 084

Happy koala spotting!

Joe



Above: The first koala with his GPS collar on. He was located in the Alpine area and weighed a healthy 9.2kg
(Photo © George Madani).

Website: www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/koalas

Further information please email:

- Joe.Stammers@wsc.nsw.gov.au
- Kylie.Madden@environment.nsw.gov.au

The Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project is a partnership between:

- NSW Office of Environment & Heritage
- Wingecarribee Shire Council (through the Environment Levy)
- University of Sydney

Private donations to this project can be made through our donations partner:

- [Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife](http://www.foundationfornationalparksandwildlife.org.au)

Sea Shepherd pays whalers to avoid more court

Reproduced with permission

<http://www.greencareer.net.au/news/sea-shepherd-pays-whalers-to-avoid-more-court>

Anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd has agreed to pay \$3.3 million to Japanese whalers.

The US arm of Sea Shepherd will pay US\$2.55 million dollars (AU\$3.332 million) for breaching a court injunction and coming too close to a Japanese whaling vessel.

In 2012, the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an injunction that forced Sea Shepherd to stay over 500 yards (457 metres) away from whaling vessels in the Southern Ocean.



In February 2013, the court ruled Sea Shepherd's ongoing activities amounted to piracy, and were in breach of its injunction. Sea Shepherd said in an official statement that it was a third party vessel that breached the court's terms.

"Other foreign, independent entities that also use some form of the 'Sea Shepherd' name came within 500 yards of ICR's vessels during Operation Zero Tolerance," the statement said.

Legal proceedings have continued since 2013, with Sea Shepherd USA petitioning the Supreme Court earlier this year, asking it to review the decision.

That bid appears to have failed, with Sea Shepherd agreeing to pay the US\$2.55 million to the whalers in an out-of-court settlement.

Sea Shepherd board president Ethan Wolf said the group would pay the fine, but did not agree with the court's finding. It is understood that the fine will not be paid from supporters' donations.

The money will go to the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) and Kyodo Senpaku, the main operators of Japan's scientifically-insulting whale 'research' program.

Baby Koala Hugs Unconscious Mom During Life-Saving Surgery

This 6-month-old joey named Phantom stayed by his mother's side during life-saving surgery. Mother koala Lizzy was hit by a car on Warrego Highway in Australia, suffering facial trauma and a collapsed lung. The two koalas are now recovering at Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, which was founded by Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin and his wife Terri.



<http://www.boredpanda.com/baby-koala-mom-surgery-australia-zoo/>

Wildlife corridors carry risks as well as rewards for endangered species

Tim Low

ABC Environment 10 Jun 2015



Credit: *sontag1* (Flickr)

'Wildlife corridors' have long been thought essential to the survival of our remaining native species. But they carry risks which are often not considered.

OF AUSTRALIA'S MANY mammal extinctions, one stands out for its strange setting. The eastern quoll, which lingers on today in Tasmania, has vanished completely from the mainland, but lasted longest in scraps of bushland in affluent inner city suburbs — in Vaucluse in Sydney and Kew and Ivanhoe in Melbourne. In both cities it survived until about 1963.

How could an endangered marsupial linger longest inside Australia's two largest cities? The answer seems to be that quolls were killed off by foxes and possibly by disease, which spread rapidly through forests and farmland but had difficulty reaching bushland remnants surrounded by suburbia.

The push towards whole-of-landscape approaches to conservation has seen the concept of 'connectivity' promoted as an inherent good, as something that cannot but be desirable — tapping into our positive feelings about other sorts of connections.

But eastern quolls do best where connectivity is least. Tasmania retains them today because, as the most isolated state, it hasn't yet been swamped with foxes. On the mainland, I would be going too far to say that connectivity killed the quolls, but given the threats they faced it was the reverse of what they needed. Conservation today is often about reducing connectivity — about keeping rare mammals inside fenced reserves or on islands where predators can't reach them.

That connectivity can do harm is a point the NSW Environment Trust acknowledged recently by introducing a process to guide future funding for vegetation corridors, Corridor Risk Assessment. The Trust, an independent body established by the NSW government to fund conservation, will no longer fund new corridor projects until the risks have been assessed by asking a question: "Will connectivity exacerbate the spread of weeds, pest species, diseases or catastrophic events (such as fire or floods)?"

The prospect of corridors creating problems is well recognised by scientists. It was an issue raised by the CSIRO in a submission to the 2012 Draft National Wildlife Corridors Plan. As a member of a subcommittee which provides advice to the Trust, I have raised concerns about the risks of a corridor along the Great Dividing Range aiding the spread of sambar deer, hog deer and feral goats.

Sambar concern me the most. In Victoria, where they are plentiful, they pose a threat to 13 rare plant species including a treefern. I have seen the fences erected around stands of shiny *nematolepis*, a vulnerable plant with a total range of only five hectares, to keep back sambar, the main threat to its survival. Sambar also damage rainforests and mess up alpine bogs. As the largest of the six deer species in Australia, sambar may prove disastrous if they spread to Queensland, which offers these tropical Asian deer a more fitting climate than Victoria. They require thick vegetation to move through and can be expected to benefit from corridors that link remnants across paddocks.

Most corridor projects aren't likely to cause problems, but having corridor risk assessment is the way to help ensure that. It sends the key message that just because an activity is well-meaning doesn't mean there are no downsides.

Biofuels provide a dramatic illustration of that. A decade or so ago they were touted as an ideal answer to climate change, then the problems emerged — rainforest destruction, rising food prices in poor countries, farmers persuaded to grow jatropha when there was no market for the seeds, weedy grasses promoted as biofuels by entrepreneurs, and so on. I am not suggesting that corridors will acquire a bad name, but they do, like biofuels, entail risks that should be assessed.

Tim Low is a biologist and author of seven books.

His most recent book Where Song Began won best prize for non-fiction at the Australian Book Industry Awards.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2015/06/10/4251727.htm>

Sarcoptes scabiei

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Scientific classification

Kingdom:

Phylum:	Animalia
Class:	Arthropoda
Subclass:	Arachnida
Order:	Acari
Family:	Sarcoptiformes
Genus:	Sarcoptidae
Species:	<i>Sarcoptes</i>

Binomial name *S. scabiei*

Sarcoptes scabiei
De Geer, 1778

Sarcoptes scabiei or the **itch mite** is a parasitic arthropod that burrows into skin and causes scabies. The mite is cosmopolitan, meaning can be found in all parts of the world. Humans are not the only mammals that can become infected. Other mammals, such as wild and domesticated dogs and cats (in which it is one cause of mange) as well as ungulates, wild boars, bovinds, wombats, koalas, and great apes are affected.

The discovery of the itch mite in 1687 marked scabies as the first disease of humans with a known cause. The Italian biologist Diacinto Cestoni showed in the 18th century that scabies is caused by the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*, variety *hominis*. The disease produces intense, itchy skin rashes when the impregnated female tunnels into the stratum corneum of the skin and deposits eggs in the burrow. The larvae, which hatch in three to 10 days, move about on the skin, moult into a nymphal stage, and then mature into adult mites. The adult mites live three to four weeks in the host's skin.



Wombat with mange © WRSC Ian Usher

The mite that affects wombats - often fatally - is called *Sarcoptes scabiei var wombati*.

Sarcoptic mites first mate on the skin of the wombat and the male dies not long after. The female mites then burrow under the skin of the wombat leaving a network of tunnels in the flesh where eggs are laid, the female then dies at the end of a tunnel. The mite eggs are nurtured via the wombat's blood serum and hatch into larvae three to eight days later. Larvae then moult into nymphs - and nymphs into adults. During this cycle the mite feeds off the wombat's blood serum which is the main contributor to the debilitation of the wombat. Once the nymphs have turned into adults they make their way back to the surface of the skin - creating more tunnels - where they mate and the cycle starts again. The life cycle of the mite is approximately two to three weeks.

Sarcoptic mange is a severe disease and affects the host in several ways. The irritation caused by the mite burrowing under the skin causes the wombat to scratch incessantly which in itself causes often irreparable damage to the skin including mutilation and hair loss. From the constant scratching, skin layers are taken off and raw flesh is exposed. The blood serum seeps through the mites' tunnels to the exposed flesh creating wounds and scabs. Ulcers and deep lesions develop which then cause secondary infection and blow fly strike.

Other visible symptoms of this disease are skin thickening and crusting over the body, including the eye and ear areas causing blindness and deafness. The animal becomes too weak to search for food and malnutrition and dehydration occur. The immune system becomes depleted and the wombat looks emaciated.

In advanced stages sarcoptic mange also has a devastating effect on internal organs, including the heart, liver, kidneys, lungs and reproductive organs. Respiratory infections and pneumonia can deplete the wombat further.

Left without treatment, a wombat with sarcoptic mange will die and death is slow and painful.

Extract from <http://www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com/WombatSarcopticMange.htm>

Sydney Arbor Trees – Urban Habitat Creation

Giving back some of what has been lost

Boxes for large birds
A box intended for White Cockatoos.
The birds found it right away.

Boxes for arboreal mammals
A box intended for Brush-tail Possums.
Ideally, mammals prefer a bit more concealment.

Boxes for small birds
A box intended for Rainbow Lorikeets was configured so as to use an old branch stub.
A pair of Lorikeets has since been seen using the hollow.

Mazes for microbats
A 'bat maze' for the use of local microbats, which like close quarters.
They also prefer small entrance holes.

Extending decay
Habitat creation employs different cutting techniques to expose extra timber to decay.
This also serves as habitat for invertebrates.

Hazard assessment
Hazards are removed, which often involves most of the canopy.
Any regrowth will require monitoring and management.

Follow us on Facebook.
[facebook.com/urbanhabitatcreation](https://www.facebook.com/urbanhabitatcreation)

Sydney Arbor Trees
PO Box 236, Botany NSW 1455
Tel: 02 9666 6821
Fax: 02 9666 6312
Mobile: 0403 930 604
michael@sydneyarbor.com.au
ABN: 39 106 413 610

Artificial tree hollows provide life after death for wildlife in Sydney

- by: Caryn Metcalfe
- From: North Shore Times June 02, 2015 3:33PM

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/north-shore/artificial-tree-hollows-provide-life-after-death-for-wildlife-in-sydney/story-fngr8h9d-1227379767920>

SOME “tree-hugging arborists” who are upset about the constant removal of large trees from suburbia are doing their bit to make dead ones useful once again.

Sydney Arbor Trees is working with bushcare groups, councils and other organisations to build artificial hollows in dead trees to retain natural habitats for wildlife, including birds, possums and microbats.

Consulting arborist Michael Sullings said the company became interested in artificial hollows after a workshop by City of Sydney 18 months ago. “They got some pre-eminent arborists up from Melbourne who had been doing it for about 10 years,” he said. “My colleague and I went and we were immediately interested. “We understand it’s necessary in most situations (to remove trees) because parts of the tree are hazardous and cutting off parts can make it more hazardous.”

Mr Sullings said he hoped the arboriculture industry would “stop viewing dead trees as eyesores and ... see them as part of a normally functioning ecosystem”. He said in normal functioning bushland, one in 10 trees was dead. “It provides somewhere for birds to perch, socialise and hunt from. “It provides food for invertebrates and lower members of most food chains. “The removal of dead trees and timber is having a massive impact on fauna in NSW, particularly the removal of hollow-bearing trees.”

Mr Sullings said Sydney Arbor Trees had installed hollows in about 15 trees, including six trees at Smoothey Park, Wollstonecraft, where a mix of bird boxes and bat mazes were created. He said the project was done for North Sydney Council, with more coming up for Lane Cove and Willoughby councils. Mr Sullings said he hoped arborists would take dead trees’ potential into account when assessing them.

“Don’t just see the hazard or works required for the tree,” he said. “See it as a critical piece of infrastructure for wildlife, not just because they have big, dark eyes and look very cute and fuzzy, but they actually protect our trees. “It’s not always about cutting hollows into the trees, more about getting a better understanding about the importance of trees.”

Call 9666 6821 or visit [facebook.com/urbanhabitatcreation](https://www.facebook.com/urbanhabitatcreation)

HOLLOW HOMES

- Research suggests for a tree hollow to be large enough for a brushtail possum, it would take 200 years to form. Trees won't start hollowing out until they are 50 -100 years old. So the minimum age for a tree with a hollow is 250
- About 75 birds, mammals, and frogs use hollows in Sydney, including cockatoos, galahs, sugar gliders, and 15 - 20 species of microbats
- Provided the root system is intact, a dead tree can remain standing for about 20 - 30 years



Picture: Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife

Flying Squirrels

On the rugged water shed
At the top of the bridle track
Where years ago, as the old men say,
The splitters went with a bullock dray
But never a dray came back;

At the time of the gumtree bloom,
When the scent in the air is strong,
And the blossom stirs in the evening breeze,
You may see the squirrels among the trees,
Playing the whole night long.

Never a care at all
Bothers their simple brains;
You can see them glide in the moonlight dim
From tree to tree and from limb to limb,
Little grey aeroplanes.

by Banjo Paterson
From book: The Animals Noah Forgot

Each like a dormouse sleeps
In the spout of a gumtree old,
A ball of fur with a silver coat;
Each with his tail around his throat
For fear of his catching cold.

These are the things he eats,
Asking his friends to dine:
Moths and beetles and new-born shoots,
Honey and snacks of the native fruits,
And a glass of dew for wine.



Jigsaw Puzzles

The IMPUZZABLE collection, Pieces of Nature...



High quality Jigsaw Puzzles, 1000 piece & also 100 piece puzzles, made here in Australia. Finished size is 20"x30" approx: 50cm x75cm. Each puzzle comes packaged in a beautiful box with magnetic lid. They are guaranteed to challenge your creative mind, visual co-ordination & patience. Enjoy the process, share the experience & be rewarded with a complete artwork which can even be framed. Be prepared for many hours of entertainment as you embark on a journey of discovery, piece by piece. Enjoy!

<http://www.naturesface.com.au/shop/jigsaw-puzzles-1000pc/>



Council sends \$50,000 into bat, takes shears to garden

By CARMEN McINTOSH

June 26, 2015, 7 a.m.

RESIDENTS living near the Batemans Bay Water Garden should get a reprieve next year from the gardens' colony of grey-headed flying foxes after Eurobodalla Shire Council resolved to undertake emergency removal and pruning of trees overhanging affected homes.

The works, designed to create a buffer for properties abutting the site, are subject to landowners' consent and will cost the council up to \$36,000. The council also voted to appoint a consultant to prepare a management plan, at a cost of \$50,000, to explore long-term options, risks and costs. The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) will contribute \$10,000 to the plan.

A report presented to councillors on Tuesday said emergency pruning works might provide some relief to residents by removing opportunities for the flying foxes to roost in limbs overhanging homes. The move will preferably be carried out when the flying foxes are not in the roosting sites in the cooler months.

The council must apply to OEH before it takes any action which might affect the colony, including pruning or removing vegetation. The council is bound to comply with the NSW Government's flying-fox management plan, which outlines three levels of actions to combat the problem.

Level one is routine vegetation management, level two is the creation of buffers between neighbouring properties and level three is camp disturbance or dispersal.

The report cited national research that showed 16 of 17 dispersal attempts were "largely unsuccessful" and "often abandoned" due to cost and the bats moving to other camps which caused the same community issues.

There are flying-fox camps at Moruya's South Head and Narooma.

Catalina also supports a camp, which could be an overflow from the Water Garden.

The Water Garden camp is considered as nationally important due to its population.

It covers an area of about 9.85ha and council estimates suggest the numbers in March and April 2015 were the highest ever.

The grey-headed flying fox is listed as a vulnerable species in both NSW and federal legislation and plays a vital role in plant pollination, genetic gene flow and seed dispersal to sustain forest ecosystems.

The council will allocate a further \$8600 for staff to manage and oversee the emergency management actions and the long-term management plan.

<http://www.batemansbaypost.com.au/story/3171184/council-sends-50000-into-bat-takes-shears-to-garden/?cs=229>



© WRSC Gavin Swan

OVERDUE

Members' fees were due 30 June 2015

If you do not wish to continue to be a WRSC member then:

- please surrender any wildlife in your care to the species co-ordinator **NOW** as you are **not covered by our NPWS licence or our insurance**
- and please return any borrowed WRSC equipment **ASAP**
- To Vote at the AGM you must be a financial member
- To stand for any position you must be a financial member

Welcome

Roma Dix

Bridget Coltman

Judy Burling

Flora Lee

Ray Gilson

Jennifer Corkish

Clare Gallagher

Doug Gallagher

Mittagong

Moss Vale

Mittagong

Goulburn

Goulburn

Mittagong

Parma

Parma

Zoe Swan

Jameika Swan

Joseph Pollard

Roslyn Pollard

Mandy Miles

Britney Leigh

Erin Melvill

Fiona Szilvassy

Sanctuary Point

Sanctuary Point

Woodhill

Woodhill

Kangaroo Valley

Kangaroo Valley

Carrick

Cordeaux Heights

No of Carers: 156

No of Rescuers: 246

Total Members: 326



21 million dreams planted
Help our dreams grow

QLD to crack down on threats to water-life

17 June 2015

<http://www.greencareer.net.au/news/qld-to-crack-down-on-threats-to-water-life>

Reproduced with permission

Queensland is considering a ban on single-use plastic bags for the sake of waterways and marine life.

The ban is among the more radical options being considered by the Queensland Government to reduce waterways' pollution and the big toll it takes on marine life.

Environment Minister Steven Miles says there is more discarded rubbish in Queensland than in any other state, with figures showing litter levels are 40 per cent above the national average.

Mr Miles says marine wildlife, turtles in particular, are often made the direct victims of human laziness.

"Forty per cent of the small turtles travelling through the bay have been recently found to have consumed plastics and more than two thirds of the endangered loggerhead turtle," Mr Miles said.

"All of us need to take some responsibility for that.

"Banning single-use plastic bags is one really practical way we can reduce litter and to help our turtles."

But plastic bags are not the only thing causing wildlife deaths and injuries

Fishing line, nets, and plastic beads from washing detergent and plastic break-down can all get stuck in the gut of a marine creature.

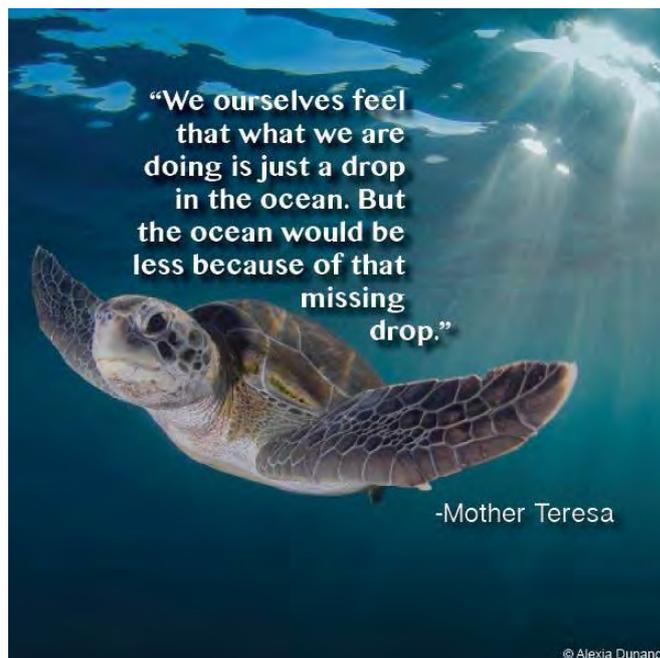
The State Government has set up an advisory council ahead of public consultations later this year.

The council - featuring representatives from regional councils, the retail industry and conservation groups - will canvas the state to find new ways to help the vital and vulnerable coastal and marine species.

Other options include a cash for containers scheme to boost recycling rates.

"There's a range of different models that we could consider - one is a small fee for plastic bags, another is a deposit on bags," Mr Miles said.

South Australia has a cash for containers scheme and a single-use plastic bag ban, and records considerably less plastic litter than other states.



A facebook page that may interest...

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/My-Wild-Life>





Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc
Far South Coast
Training Day

**Introduction to Rescuing Wildlife
& Rescue Telephone**

Attendance at this course is a condition of our NPWS licence for all new members before you can be authorised by WRSC to rescue injured or orphaned wildlife. The cost for this course is \$20 which includes the manual and is payable on the day. This is a totally new course introduced in April 2014 so existing members are also encouraged and welcome to attend.

Come along and meet other Far South Coast members!

Cobargo
Rural Fire Services Hall Wandella Road

South of the bridge over the creek,
turn west off the highway opposite the Cobargo Hotel
and the hall is about 200m on the right.

Sunday 19 July 2015

Registration commences at 9am and the training concludes at 3.30pm.

Morning and afternoon tea is provided but please BYO lunch.

Reserve your seat by 11 July
by contacting

Danie Ondinea 6493 5777
or email: danieondinea@gmail.com

or

Jenny Packwood WRSC Education Co-ordinator
0418497 345 or email: packwoodcj1@bigpond.com



Are there members interested in attending a workshop on rescuing pelicans so that they can then be transferred to Australian Seabird Rescue in Wollongong for care and treatment?

If there are enough people who would like to attend their workshop Australian Seabird Rescue are prepared to hold one in the Ulladulla area in the near future. Just contact me so we can arrange this.

Jenny Packwood WRSC Education Co-ordinator
0418497345 or email: packwoodcj1@bigpond.com



Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc
invites you to the long awaited
WOMBAT COURSE



Date - Saturday 18 July
Venue - Wamboin Community Hall
Bingley Way, Wamboin

Time 9.am for a 9.15 start, finishing time 4pm.
Cost \$20 .00 for members - \$25.00 for non members - payable in advance please.
Attendees to bring their own lunch, tea/coffee/nibbles provided.

The Wildcare Basic Wombat Course is designed to inform potential carers who may know nothing about wombats or the basics of what is involved in raising wombats. Experienced carers are also invited to come along and share their experiences and hopefully learn something new.

RSVP training@wildcare.com.au or call Val (6299 5979) or Laurel (6297 8806) to register.

* Course payment should be made by bank deposit into:
Commonwealth Bank account
BSB: 062593 Acc No: 28026717
Account name: Wildcare Queanbeyan Inc.

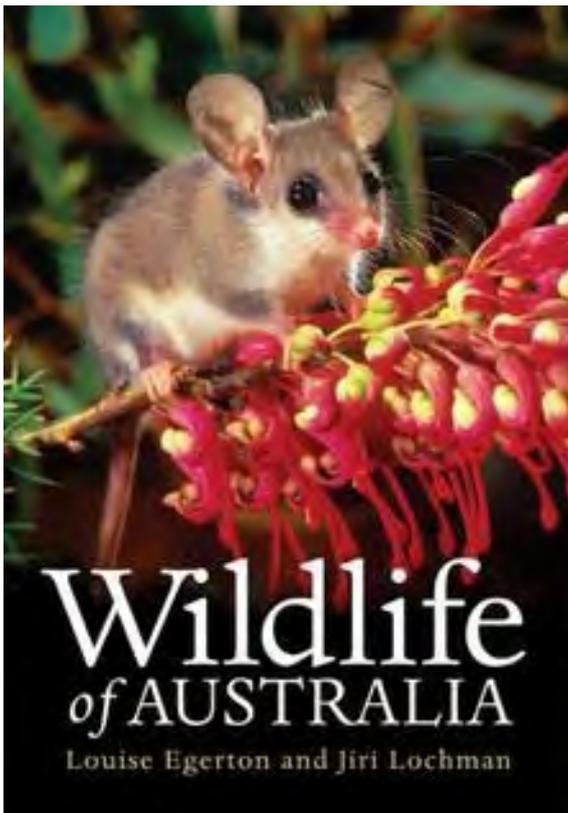
* Please include your surname and "wombat" as the reference

* Registration cut-off date is 15th July!

Looking forward to seeing you there
Val and Laurel - Wildcare Queanbeyan

A book you may be interested in....

Wildlife of Australia
by Louise Egerton and Jiri Lochman



Product details

ISBN: 9781741149975

Category:

Wildlife: general interest

Format: Hardback

Publication Date:

2009-09-01

Language: English

Publisher:

ALLEN & UNWIN

Country of origin:

Australia

Pages: 448

Dimensions (mm):

245x170x38mm

Weight: 1.46kg

Synopsis

There is nothing to beat the extraordinary wildlife of Australia. Its colourful parrots, its venomous snakes, its abundance of hopping marsupials and the strange, egg-laying Platypus - these are just a few of the players in a story that began hundreds of millions of years ago. Many members of Australia's wildlife live nowhere else on Earth. They are unique, the result of evolution on a continent that has been geographically isolated from the rest of the world for 38 million years. Wildlife of Australia is an account of how these animals have developed in response to changing climates and habitats. It describes their day-to-day habits, where they live, how they find partners and care for their young, and how they protect themselves and find food and shelter. Superbly illustrated with over 550 photographs by renowned wildlife photographer Jiri Lochman, the book also contains a list of scientific names, good zoos and wildlife parks, useful websites and books, and a comprehensive glossary.

Babbler birds use primitive language to communicate with meaning, study shows

30 Jun 2015, 10:49am <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-30/outback-babbler-birds-use-primitive-language-study-says/6582860>

A bird in the Australian outback is communicating in a way previously attributed only to humans, a study shows. The study published in the journal PLOS biology found the chestnut-crowned babbler was able to string together sounds and mix them up in order to communicate different meanings.

Researchers have long known that birds can put together different sounds and patterns for the songs they sing, but these were not believed to hold meaning, lead author Sabrina Engesser of the University of Zurich said. "Changing the arrangement of sounds within a song does not seem to alter its overall message," she said.

But the babbler bird does not sing. "Instead its extensive vocal repertoire is characterised by discrete calls made up of smaller acoustically distinct individual sounds," Ms Engesser said. Researchers studied the bird calls and found that different patterns were used in certain circumstances.

For instance, two sounds that scientists named A and B were combined for a flight call (AB) and for a feeding call (BAB). When the researchers played the sounds back, birds showed different reactions such as looking at their nests when they heard a feeding prompt call and by looking out for incoming birds when they heard a flight call, the study said.

"This is the first time that the capacity to generate new meaning from rearranging meaningless elements has been shown to exist outside of humans," co-author Dr Simon Townsend said. "Although the two babbler bird calls are structurally very similar, they are produced in totally different behavioural contexts and listening birds are capable of picking up on this."

Researchers said their findings "reveal a potential early step in the emergence of the elaborate language systems we use today".

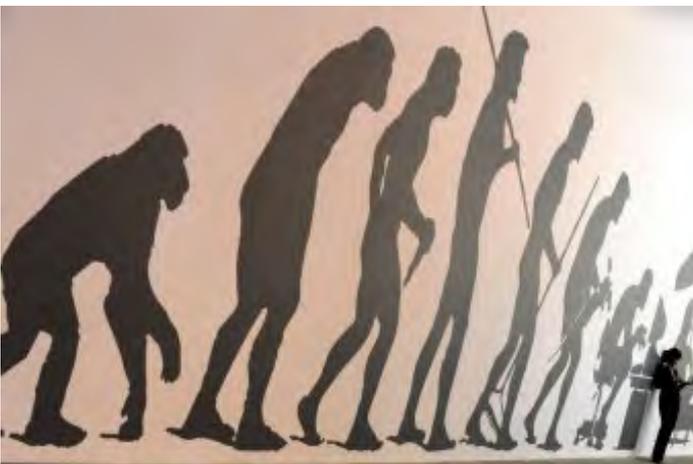


The chestnut-crowned babbler bird.
(Wikimedia/Aviceda (CC BY-SA))

Humans first species to become top predator on land and sea, causing unprecedented shifts in world ecosystems

1 Jul 2015, 9:55am <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-01/humans-top-top-predator-on-land-and-sea/6585866>

Humans have reached total domination on Earth, becoming the top predator on land and sea, a study has found. The study from the University of Leicester shows human power over the natural environment has caused shifts in world ecosystems unprecedented in the last 500 million years. The transition has led to the international decline in the variety of plants and animals through extinction, as organisms not useful to human needs are killed off by ecosystem changes or over-exploitation.



The biggest immediate losers will be large predators like tigers and lions, while creatures domesticated by humans, including house cats, will thrive in the new world, said Jan Zalasiewicz, a professor of palaeobiology at the University of Leicester in central England, and co-author of the study. From weather patterns altered by the burning of fossil fuels to the loss of biodiversity through logging and urbanisation, humans are unsustainably exploiting the earth's natural wealth.

And with new technology, including selective breeding and genetic modification, humans are now directly altering the evolution of other species, while also changing patterns in natural selection by man-made shifts in the environment, the study said. Large extinctions or climate shifts are nothing new for the Earth, evidenced by the ice age and the disappearance of the dinosaurs, but current environmental changes represent something different, researchers said.

"Some human-made changes have genuinely not been seen before on planet Earth," Professor Zalasiewicz said.

The research was published in the academic journal *The Anthropocene Review*.

A NEW KIND OF NATURE

In the past, volcanic eruptions, complex ecological breakdowns or meteor strikes caused structural changes to the planet, he said.

In contrast, today's shifts — including climate change, ocean acidification and the loss of biodiversity have created a "new kind of nature", he said. "Global warming as a phenomenon is just beginning," Professor Zalasiewicz said. "Species extinctions and other changes are far more advanced."

Since 1900, extinction rates for vertebrates have been between 10 and 100 times higher than normal levels, he said. At least 468 creatures have been eliminated from the planet since then, including the Costa Rican golden toad and Yangtze dolphin.

Professor Zalasiewicz said human-caused environmental changes had accelerated rapidly since the end of World War II, as technology has advanced and resource use intensified. "When global warming really bites, that will ratchet up the changes currently taking place," he said.

Great Barrier Reef: United Nations World Heritage Committee could list reef as 'in danger', lawyers say

By the National Reporting Team's [Lisa Main](#) and environment reporter [Jake Sturmer](#)

Updated 12 Jun 2015, 7:17am

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-11/lawyers-contradict-unesco-ruling-on-great-barrier-reef/6539734>



© Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The United Nations World Heritage Committee (WHC) could list the Great Barrier Reef as "in danger", according to analysis from Australian and US environmental lawyers.

The report found the Great Barrier Reef met five of eight criteria required by UN conservation agency UNESCO for inclusion on the World Heritage in Danger list.

The findings contradict a draft UNESCO decision — released two weeks ago — which flagged concerns about the very poor condition of the reef but did not recommend it be listed as "in danger".

While the May draft decision praised the commitments toward restoring water quality and restricting major port development, it noted the WHC should review any lack of progress in 2017.

Lawyers from Environmental Justice Australia and Earthjustice in the United States weighed the same evidence that was in front of the WHC against the organisation's criteria for an "in danger" listing and came up with a very different conclusion.

"Our analysis finds that the reef meets five of these eight criteria for inscription on the list of World Heritage in Danger, when only one is required for listing," Ariane Wilkinson, a lawyer at Environmental Justice Australia, said.

The lawyers' report highlights a range of concerns, including:

- Serious declines in the health of coral and harm to seagrass meadows, which have been reduced to "small remnant patches"
- Risks to the dugong population with declines of 95 per cent in the central and southern parts of the reef
- Serious declines in two dolphin species, the Australian snub fin and Indo-Pacific humpback, considered at risk
- Development of industrial ports at Gladstone, Abbot Point and Hay Point — all major coal-exporting hubs
- The effects of run-off from land-based activities that threaten the water quality and integrity of the reef

	CRITERIA	LEGAL ASSESSMENT OF THE EVIDENCE
Paragraph 180 a) ASCERTAINED DANGER – The property is faced with specific and proven imminent danger, such as:	180 a) i) A serious decline in the population of the endangered species or the other species of Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was legally established to protect, either by natural factors such as disease or by man-made factors such as poaching.	The evidence satisfies this criterion.
	180 a) ii) Severe deterioration of the natural beauty or scientific value of the property, as by human settlement, construction of reservoirs which flood important parts of the property, industrial and agricultural development including use of pesticides and fertilizers, major public works, mining, pollution, logging, firewood collection, etc.	The evidence arguably satisfies this criterion.
	180 a) iii) Human encroachment on boundaries or in upstream areas which threaten the integrity of the property.	The evidence satisfies this criterion.

Infographic: A table from the report Protecting the Great Barrier Reef showing the criteria by which a place is judged to be "in danger".
(Supplied: Earthjustice/Environmental Justice Australia)

One issue of particular concern to the lawyers is whether the reef's management plan is sufficient.

The UNESCO decision relies upon the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan to halt the current decline of the reef. In its draft decision, UNESCO welcomed the Reef 2050 plan.

"The establishment of such a plan through a multi-stakeholder process at the scale of the property is in itself a major technical and policy achievement," it said. But it made clear that there needed to now be action — and results.

"Sustained, adequate financing is central to the plan's performance," the decision said.

The lawyers say the 2050 plan is inadequate.

"Respected reef scientists and The Australian Academy of Science have expressed concerns about the inadequacy of the Reef 2050 plan, noting that in its current form it won't overcome the trajectory of deterioration of the reef," Ms Wilkinson said.

"The committee's draft decision isn't enough to save the reef and the 2050 Reef Plan, which UNESCO is relying on to make its decision, is inadequate in responding to those threats."

The WHC will finalise its decision at a meeting in Germany this month.

Last month, Environment Minister Greg Hunt described the draft decision not to recommend the reef be declared in danger was an "overwhelming endorsement" of the work by the federal and Queensland governments to address concerns and protect the reef.

The Federal Government has committed \$140 million to the Reef Trust, which will invest in projects to improve water quality and coastal habitat as well as tackle the crown-of-thorns starfish.

It has also spent hundreds of thousands of dollars lobbying the 21 WHC nations and foreign journalists.

The Queensland Government also pledged \$100 million over five years to be spent on projects to improve the reef.

"The world has recognised that Australia has made huge steps in the last 12 months," Mr Hunt said last month

If the World Heritage [Committee] system is to have any value, it must address the most serious threats to the most iconic examples of world heritage.

Martin Wagner, an attorney at Earthjustice

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"The world has recognised that Australia has made huge steps in the last 12 months," Mr Hunt said last month.

Earthjustice attorney Martin Wagner disputes that assessment.

"If the World Heritage [Committee] system is to have any value, it must address the most serious threats to the most iconic examples of world heritage," he said.

"The World Heritage Committee should step up to ensure that this unique and threatened part of humanity's world heritage is not lost forever."

On Wednesday, the Queensland Auditor-General released a report questioning the State Government's claim that water quality on the Great Barrier Reef was improving, describing it as "misleading at worst".



To the members who supported our wine drive, and especially to those who extended their scope to friends and work colleagues - Thank You!

Some of you have done a brilliant job and are to be commended, especially Debbie Colbert and Cherryl Swan. One local accommodation business has purchased WRSC wine to leave in their guest rooms!

In all almost 600 bottles have been sold with an estimated project income to the group of almost \$3000.

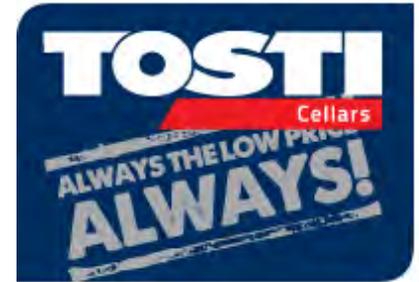
The bottles have our own WRSC labels and are now available for distribution / collection. Please contact Sam & Cathy Joukador, Cherryl, Debbie or Joy to make final arrangements for your delivery.

Thanks to all for a job well done, and special thanks to Cathy & Sam for suggesting the idea and their follow up interest.

Our thanks also go to Lizz from Tosti Cellars, and to the Tosti Cellars organisation for making this fund raising venture available. Their help with art work, advertising and distribution has been amazing.....

Hope you all enjoy the wine, and get to share it with your family and friends.

Joy Weatherall



We are keen to gather inspiring stories about what people have been doing in their own backyards to help out their local wildlife. It could be about how you have improved the habitat in your garden by planting natives and putting in a bird bath or just the wonderful encounters you have with visiting birds, possums and other Backyard Buddies in your garden- we would love to hear from you!

Simply send your short story (300 - 500 words), to fharvey@fnpw.org.au along with a few photos and you could be featured in our Australia-wide B-mail newsletter. If not you, then tag a friend you think might be interested.

Thanks so much for doing your bit for Australia's wildlife!