



**June 2016**

Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc  
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0418 427 214 Wollongong to Batemans Bay | 0417 238 921 Mogo to Victorian Border

© WRSC Cathy Jaye



*Please*  
*Help us help Wildlife....*  
*Slow down on the roads*  
*over the June long weekend*



## Membership Renewal Reminder

Thank you to the members who have already renewed their 2016/17 membership.

30 June is the deadline for all membership renewal applications and payments.

Three forms of payment are accepted:

Cheque

Direct deposit

PayPal

The renewal application form with payment receipt can be:

Mailed (please mark to "Membership")

or

Emailed to:

[membership@wildlife-rescue.org.au](mailto:membership@wildlife-rescue.org.au)

## Thank you....

To Cartoscope Pty Ltd for again sponsoring Wildlife Rescue South Coast ads in their Sapphire Coast, Eurobodalla, Shoalhaven and Illawarra Maps this year. Cartoscope Free Maps are available at local tourist information centres.



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[www.maps.com.au](http://www.maps.com.au) E: [info@maps.com.au](mailto:info@maps.com.au)

## Email addresses.....

[committee@wildlife-rescue.org.au](mailto:committee@wildlife-rescue.org.au)  
[fsc@wildlife-rescue.org.au](mailto:fsc@wildlife-rescue.org.au)  
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[treasurer@wildlife-rescue.org.au](mailto:treasurer@wildlife-rescue.org.au)

## Donations can be made to.....

**BSB** 641 800  
**Account** 200469788  
**Name** Wildlife Rescue Fund  
or

PayPal & credit card via the website  
\* \$2 or more are tax deductible

## Facebook page.....

[www.facebook.com/Wildlife.Rescue.SC](http://www.facebook.com/Wildlife.Rescue.SC)

## Website.....

[www.wildlife-rescue.org.au](http://www.wildlife-rescue.org.au)



Put the 2nd Wednesday of every month into your 2016 calendar for  
**Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc.**  
**General Meetings**

8 June

13 July

10 August

7pm start with refreshments provided

Nowra Library Meeting Room just off Berry Street  
(around the corner from the Library's main entrance)  
Plenty of parking between the Library and Woolworths.

# The Chickens and the Quoll

Release and photos © WRSC Trista Kyriacou  
Tuesday 24 May 2016

This morning I got a call at 6:30am from a lady who had unexpectedly caught, what she thought was a spotted quoll, in a trap. Over the past couple of weeks 10 chooks of hers had been taken and she thought it was a fox or feral cat..

Being in Nowra Hill and close to the industrial estate I was sceptical at first. But when I arrived there in the trap was a spotted quoll with a chicken feather still hanging out of its mouth and there was no denying that howl and hiss. I attempted to get a few photos but I wasn't sticking my hand in there to get the chicken carcass out!

The quoll was taken somewhere quiet to calm down and I was able to have a good look over it and identify that she was a female. NPWS were contacted, all her information passed on and they seemed also quite surprised as to where she was found. After clearing her of any injuries or illness she was given the okay to be released.

At dusk, I headed back out to where she had come from and in the blink of an eye, the quoll bolted out of that trap like a rocket, she was so fast I barely saw it happen so unfortunately I missed taking photos of the big 'release'. Shame.

However, the most important thing is that she has been returned safely to the wild and I have fantastic memories of the day I had a spotted quoll and chicken carcass in my car. How many other people have that claim to fame!



*Did you know....*

## Spotted-tailed Quoll – profile

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/spottedtailedQuoll.htm>

Scientific name: *Dasyurus maculatus*

Conservation status in NSW: **Vulnerable**

Commonwealth status: **Endangered**

## What do they look like?

The spotted-tailed quoll, or tiger quoll, is mainland Australia's largest carnivorous marsupial. It is about the size of a domestic cat, but has shorter legs and a more pointed face than a cat. Its fur is rich red to dark brown, and covered with white spots on the back which continue down the tail. The spotted tail distinguishes it from all other Australian mammals, including other quoll species. However, the spots may be indistinct on young animals.

The average weight of an adult male is about 3,500 grams and an adult female about 2,000 grams.

## Habitat and ecology

- ☞ Recorded across a range of habitat types, including rainforest, open forest, woodland, coastal heath and inland riparian forest, from the sub-alpine zone to the coastline.
- ☞ Individual animals use hollow-bearing trees, fallen logs, small caves, rock outcrops and rocky-cliff faces as den sites.
- ☞ Mostly nocturnal, although will hunt during the day; spends most of the time on the ground, although also an excellent climber and will hunt possums and gliders in tree hollows and prey on roosting birds.
- ☞ Use communal 'latrine sites', often on flat rocks among boulder fields, rocky cliff-faces or along rocky stream beds or banks. Such sites may be visited by multiple individuals and can be recognised by the accumulation of the sometimes characteristic 'twisty-shaped' faeces deposited by animals.

*Continued on next page*

- ↵ A generalist predator with a preference for medium-sized (500g-5kg) mammals. Consumes a variety of prey, including gliders, possums, small wallabies, rats, birds, bandicoots, rabbits, reptiles and insects. Also eats carrion and takes domestic fowl.
- ↵ Females occupy home ranges up to about 750 hectares and males up to 3500 hectares. Are known to traverse their home ranges along densely vegetated creeklines.
- ↵ Average litter size is five; both sexes mature at about one year of age. Life expectancy in the wild is about 3-4 years.



### Threats

- ↵ Loss, fragmentation and degradation of habitat.
- ↵ Competition with introduced predators such as cats and foxes.
- ↵ Deliberate poisoning, shooting and trapping, primarily in response to chicken predation.
- ↵ Roadkill

Image © Michael Barritt & Karen May |CC  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/centralaustralia/352169715/>

## NSW GOVERNMENT APPROVES DESTRUCTION OF VITAL FLYING FOX HABITAT

25th May 2016

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<http://www.hsi.org.au/go/to/2801/25th-may-nsw-government-approves-destruction-of-vital-flying-fox.html#.V0oqp2Bf3IU>

**Humane Society International (HSI)** today called upon the Commonwealth and NSW state governments to act in accordance with Federal and State conservation regulations to protect threatened flying-fox species, and to end their politically motivated war against an ecologically crucial keystone species. **HSI has discovered that the NSW government has quietly allowed the destruction of 23% of flying-fox roosting habitat at Batemans Bay, a legally recognised nationally-important flying-fox camp.** This action is entirely separate and additional to the much publicised planned dispersal of the same camp.

**HSI Senior Program Manager Evan Quartermain** said, *"The destructive actions of the NSW government and the non-action of the Federal government are clearly in conflict with their legal obligations to protect the much persecuted grey-headed flying-fox. With colonies under attack by officialdom in Batemans Bay, Sydney's Northern Beaches (Avalon) and Cessnock, to name but a few, governments are exerting more downward pressure on the species survival. Governments are also complicit through lack of action against vigilante members of the public who are illegally disturbing, including attempts to burn, thousands of flying-foxes on a regular basis across the state."*

The combined government management actions, the latest of which is NSW Premier Mike Baird's provision of \$2.5 million of public money to attempt flying-fox dispersal at Batemans Bay (classed as being unlikely to succeed in the draft dispersal plan for the camp), are quite simply perverse and against the public interest. The grey-headed flying-fox is protected under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

**Mr Quartermain** continued, *"We have an absurd situation where in effect the Commonwealth has delegated responsibility to the States, who have in turn delegated responsibility to local councils, who then respond to a handful of the noisiest individuals. Rather than managing this situation for the protection of the species and the local community, councils are predominantly proceeding to harm the flying-foxes, spending vast amounts of public money and all for the sake of a process likely to fail. So we end up spending millions of dollars to stop the bellyaching of a few individuals, funding that should be spent on recovering the species, but of course never has been."*

**HSI** was responsible for the listing of the grey-headed flying-fox as a species "Vulnerable to extinction" under the EPBC Act in 2001, and has been to the Federal, NSW and Victorian courts on a number of occasions to protect them. Governments have yet to publish a much needed Recovery Plan for the species.

*"We are in the process of seeking further legal advice, and yesterday asked Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt to immediately "call-in" the proposed habitat destruction and flying-fox disturbance at Batemans Bay under the EPBC Act,"* concluded **Mr Quartermain**.



© Nick Edards

# HABITAT HOLLOW HOMES

ADVICE WRSC GAVIN SWAN ~ PHOTOS © WRSC GAVIN & CHERRYL SWAN



When finished, this hollow will be mounted vertically.



4 x 60cm sections with a 11cm inside diameter ready to be turned into housing for Sugar gliders



Natural entrance ready to be mounted horizontally to a tree branch.



Natural hollow with a 5cm artificial entrance ready to be mounted horizontally to a tree branch

## Some Correspondence....

12 May....Have just joined, timely considering training course on Sunday...great newsletters packed full of information, photos and goings on....thank you!...Dona

11 May....Great Newsletter this month ....enjoyed every word....my Mum loves to read it and it is passed on to all our staff who are all interested in the protection of our environment.... Lea

9 May....Wow! You've done it again. The newsletters just get better and better! Really informative, reaching out to important things.... Alexandra

9 May....The images in your newsletters are always beautiful, it is always a joy in our office when it lands in our inbox....Chandi

2 May....The newsletter is amazing! There is so much information and the layout is wonderful. Thank you so much for adding the owl cookies and recipe. I feel so blessed to be included in the issue....Lisa

*The newsletter team have been heartened by the positive feedback that some of our readers and contributors have chosen to share. The WRSC newsletter is a great way to share the success stories of our members and to seek advice and assistance to further the great work being done. It has also developed in a small way a role in heightening community awareness to showcase the myriad of impacts that society is forcing onto our natural environment and its wildlife. Thank you for your feedback it is genuinely appreciated.*

Jane & Robyn

*Where is she now....?*

## Mudsey's Story

### The Rescue:

24 November 2014: A wombat joey had spent all night in her mother's pouch under a thick soup of clay. Her mother had been kicked in the head by a horse during the night, and had attempted to return to her burrow, which was situated in the side of a dam on a property. The weather had been awful, and torrential rain had been constant for days, leaving a boggy clay soup leading uphill to the wombat's burrow. Weakened from her head injury she frantically tried to get to the burrow's entrance but kept slipping down into the clay, finally digging herself under the mud and exhausted, ceased trying.

The following morning the property owner, Janelle, found just the adult wombat's top visible and called Wildlife Rescue South Coast (WRSC) to rescue her. WRSC Gavin Swan attended, and pulling her free, found she was barely alive. It was sadly not possible for her to survive the head injury sustained, and she was later euthanised.

In her pouch, was a small joey, covered in mud. The mud was inside her nose, mouth and all of the pouch. Gavin did not expect the joey to have survived, but on removing her found she was still alive. He washed her, dried her and named the joey 'Mudsey', she weighed in at 1.5kgs.



### Rehabilitation:

Mudsey was immediately transferred to one of WRSC's regional wombat coordinators, Lyn Obern in Kangaroo Valley NSW for ongoing care until her release. Mudsey made great progress during her 18 months with the 'Wisdom Wombat Refuge' owned and on Lyn's property in Kangaroo Valley. Lyn rescues, raises, rehabilitates and releases injured and orphaned wombats under the WRSC licence issued by NSW Parks and Wildlife Services.

Whilst growing up with her new friends Tilly and Rosie, Mudsey became a beautiful pale grey adolescent wombat, and has been a source of amusement and fun to care for and raise. Mudsey has oodles of personality, and despite her sad beginning has always been affectionate, playful and happy.

### Release:

Mudsey weighing 24kgs was released on 27th April 2016, onto a beautiful private property, which has a soft release system. This allows Mudsey to live under human protection within a burrow, but having the freedom to leave and explore her new 'wild' home, but return to the safety of this burrow until she has established her geographic memory of her new territory, left her scats for the other locals to get used to, and eventually dig herself a burrow out in the property where Mudsey will finally reside as a wild wombat.

The owners and carers of this property maintain a watch over her progress and transition from being in her last stage of care to finally living as a wild wombat. They are on hand should she find it traumatic, become stressed or injured, and will contact Lyn for advice or any issues that they feel are a concern for Mudsey should this happen.

It is common for these wild wombats to remain on the chosen property and reproduce, often arriving back to the property owners to display their own joeys before returning to the wild again.

Mudsey has now been on her first walk about from her soft release pen at night, disappearing for a few days and returning to her soft release pen, looking healthy and happy. Many thanks to her new home owners, and their diligent observations in her transition to the wild.

A wonderful outcome from a tragic start to her life.

Lyn Obern  
WRSC Regional Wombat Coordinator, Kangaroo Valley NSW

**Top Right:** Mudsey's Rescue photos © WRSC Gavin Swan

**Above & Below:** Mudsey's Rehabilitation photos © WRSC Lyn Obern





© Courtesy Evan Quartermain. (WLT)

# IT'S TIME TO END THE FAILED REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS

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<http://www.npansw.org.au/index.php/campaigns/park-protection/park-protection-news/316-it-s-time-to-end-the-failed-regional-forest-agreements>

The Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) that govern logging in nearly 7 million hectares of state forests in NSW, Tasmania, Victoria and WA have failed in all their objectives and should be terminated when they expire over the next four years. That is the damning assessment by over 30 environmental groups in a statement released today.

“The RFAs commenced in the 1990s and did not take factors such as climate change into account” said Lorraine Bower of the Australian Forests and Climate Alliance (AFCA). “Now we know that forests are vital for moderating climate and storing carbon, and that logging significantly reduces carbon stores in forests.

“By giving the logging industry unfettered access to public forests over the 20 years of the RFAs, other industries that could support jobs and growth, such as the carbon market and tourism, have been stymied.

“The RFAs act as a loophole excluding logging from accountability to federal environmental laws that would apply to any other industry, enterprise or individual landowner” said Ms Bower. “It’s no surprise then that numerous studies have shown that the logging of native forests has resulted in devastation of forest ecosystems, loss of wildlife, reduction in water supplies and decline in soil health.

“In essence, the RFAs function as a license to devastate our forests with impunity.

“Just two weeks ago greater gliders became the latest forest species to be listed as threatened<sup>[1]</sup>. Clearfell logging and the loss of hollow-bearing trees are the key reasons in their decline. The magnificent mountain ash forests of Victoria have been so battered by fire and logging that just 1% is now unburnt and unlogged, and the ecosystem faces collapse in just 50 years<sup>[2]</sup>. Leadbeater’s possum is on course to enter extinction even sooner.

“Yet the logging industry keeps pushing for the use of native forests for low value products like paper, export woodchips and firewood, and now the government sanctioned burning of native forest logs for the production of electricity.”

“The logging industry has flouted regulations with innumerable breaches, and not even been able to turn a free resource into financially viable industry. It loses money in all four states, and employs few workers” said Ms Bower

“For so many reasons the RFAs must not be rolled over or renewed when they expire, and the industry moved to the prosperous plantation sector, where 80% of the jobs already reside”.

To view the statement visit [bit.ly/22fDQZy](http://bit.ly/22fDQZy)

## Media Contacts:

Lorraine Bower 0414 958 714

Oisín Sweeney 0431 251 194

[1] <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/254-conservation-advice-05052016.pdf>

[2] <http://www.greatforestnationalpark.com.au/>

[uploads/1/5/5/7/15574924/2014\\_ecosystem\\_assessment\\_of\\_mountain\\_ash\\_forest\\_in\\_the\\_central\\_highlands\\_etc\\_-\\_australecol\\_doi.pdf](http://www.greatforestnationalpark.com.au/uploads/1/5/5/7/15574924/2014_ecosystem_assessment_of_mountain_ash_forest_in_the_central_highlands_etc_-_australecol_doi.pdf)

Wildlife Rescue South Coast's primary aim is to rescue and rehabilitate injured and orphaned native wildlife to eventually release them back to the wild. Our rescuers and carers are volunteers and your generous donations go directly towards helping us help wildlife.



PLEASE DONATE TO HELP WILDLIFE RESCUE SOUTH COAST  
HELP OUR WILDLIFE

*Did you post a parcel....*

...in Watson ACT to Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc. and is your name Michelle?

WRSC received the parcel but the only identification was the Post office and your Christian name on the note so we hope 'Michelle' reads the Newsletter as we would like to thank you for the kind donation of goods. They were enthusiastically received and have been put to good use for the wildlife in our care.

*Thank you....*

Wildlife Rescue South Coast thank the following Businesses for allowing collection of donations through donation tins:

Rockabellas Roadside Diner Robertson  
Kangaroo Valley Bakehouse Kangaroo Valley  
Robertson Village Pharmacy  
Merimbula Markets  
Kidzfix and Nowra speedway canteen

We also thank May's individual donors listed below, as well as those who did not wish to be named:

A. Wade	C. McCormack	P. Ryan	R. Flack	T. Rix	K. Vine
G. Dubbeld	H. Atkinson	D. Body	S. Bence	L. Tucker	T. & P. Spendley

If you have made a donation to Wildlife Rescue South Coast and have not received your tax deductible receipt or your name has not been included in the list and you wish it to be included please contact us at [treasurer@wildlife-rescue.org.au](mailto:treasurer@wildlife-rescue.org.au)

Port Macquarie Animal Welfare Service (PMAWS) donated a variety of large knitted pouches. These have now been distributed and are helping us keep our wildlife warm now winter is here. Thank you so much.

### facebook pages that may interest...

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

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Port-Macquarie-Animal-Welfare-Service-PMAWS/129686863739004>



**Animal Link  
FOUNDATION**

Animal Link Foundation networks with existing wildlife and animal groups. We provide pouches and jumpers for rehabilitation.

Leonie: 0405 138825  
6581 4776  
Jenny: 0428 826373  
6581 2572  
pmaws@hotmail.com  
www.pmaws.weebly.com



PMAWS is a not for profit NSW Government registered charity. We are dedicated to the welfare of domestic animals in the Port Macquarie area and surrounds.

*Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc.  
thank Sanctuary Point Pharmacy  
for being one of our  
2016 calendar sponsors*

# WELCOME

Shaun Row      Quaama  
Sarah Taylor      Gerringong  
Donalea Eaton      Eden  
Michelle Pullen      Bundanoon  
Yvonne Hughes      Big Hill  
Lorry Wertheiner      Mittagong

May Membership

Carers: 161

Rescuers: 234

Total Members: 318



*Wildlife Rescue South Coast was seen at....*

Merimbula RSPCA Million Paws Walk  
15 May 2016



Photos © WRSC Leah Reid



# Landmark report finds koalas across two thirds of NSW facing extinction

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<http://www.npansw.org.au/~npans186/index.php/campaigns/park-protection/park-protection-news/315-landmark-report-finds-koalas-across-two-thirds-of-nsw-facing-extinction>

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) are alarmed at a new report that shows that koalas across two thirds of the state face extinction from habitat loss and climate change.

The report, written by former Office of Environment and Heritage ecologist, David Paull, indicates that radical measures need to be taken if the fate of the state's koalas is to be reversed.

"We believe no report or data base within Government, either State or Federal, gives such a comprehensive picture of the likely fate of koalas in western NSW which are now facing extinction from continuing land clearing for mining and farming, and intensive logging of native forests," Mr Paull said.

The report comes as the NSW Government unveils new laws which will allow farmers virtually unrestricted ability to clear their land.

"In light of this landmark report, we are calling on the government to take immediate action to protect all remaining koala habitat. Habitat loss and fragmentation have already led to koalas disappearing from 75% of their former home range and are continuing to cause dramatic population declines across NSW," says Kevin Evans, CEO of NPA.

"Ensuring the future of our national icon is surely reason enough for the Baird Government not to proceed with its controversial new Bill which will see land-clearing escalate to a catastrophic level. With 80% of koalas in NSW living on private land, these new laws along with climate change will spell the end for this special marsupial."

The report breaks down the study area into seven bioregions, including the South East Highlands and South Western Slopes.

Mr Paull says the report card for koalas in these areas is mixed.

"Some koala populations in the South-East Highlands and South Western Slopes are doing well, particularly those around the Monaro area, though others have shown significant recent decline, especially in the central-west, Parkes and Murrumbidgee regions.

"Patterns of decline in koalas across the state suggest highland areas may be increasingly important for koala survival into the future," he said.

To save koala populations in NSW the report, commissioned by the Western Woodlands Alliance, and supported by community and environmental groups across NSW, identifies a radical conceptual Koala Park of over 4.5 million hectares, across seven bioregions, to preserve and link habitat across all land tenures from the Queensland to Victoria borders.

"The Western Woodlands Koala Park proposal calls for extensive additions to the reserve system and substantial incentives for private owners with priority habitat to conserve and manage their remnant habitat," Mr Paull said.

"Critically only 18 per cent of the koala locations in the study area are in the current reserve system, while 64 per cent are on private land," he said.

He said the report identifies and maps Koala Investment Zones and Private Land Hotspots, which contain priority habitat and important linkages, to be included within the park.

"If an epic and tragic extinction is to be avoided, it's time to act. Out of the 97 populations we looked at only ten are stable. Most are declining and may well meet the criteria for endangered under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, others are already gone.

"In Australia, Koalas, once prolific from South Australia to Queensland, are now listed as vulnerable in the ACT, NSW and Queensland. Inland Koalas, which represent over half of the total remaining populations in NSW, are critical to the survival of this Australian species. If we save the Koalas we also save many other unique Australian animals also facing extinction. The NSW Koala Recovery Plan is failing miserably, while the Federal Government's Koala Recovery Plan, originally set for release in 2011, is still nowhere to be seen."

Noel Plumb, Convenor of the Alliance said "The Western Woodlands Koala Park report presents an integrated landscape proposal that meets the requirements for the preservation of inland Koala populations and will require widespread political, community and agency support to implement."

For the full report, maps and summary go to:

[www.westernwoodlands.weebly.com](http://www.westernwoodlands.weebly.com)

## Media Enquiries

David Paull, WWA Ecologist, ph. 0455 634 160

Noel Plumb, WWA Convenor, ph. 0425 238 303



*Koala © Courtesy of Sue Swaney*

*Please write a letter....*

Members of WRSC attended the recent Nowra community consultation on the NSW Government's draft biodiversity and land clearing legislation and the future does not look good for our wildlife due to the new laws for land clearing, threatened species and wildlife care in general.

Are you concerned about the impacts this legislation might have on our wildlife, our soils and climate?

**If so, we encourage you to send a short letter to your local paper raising this important issue and voicing your concerns.**

**For the South Coast Register, please [submit your letter to the editor here](#).**

Remember: whether your letter is published or not is not vital. What matters is that you are sending the editor a short message that this issue is important to you and thus encouraging them to write and publish on this very important issue.

Some points you could make:

- The NSW Government has no idea how much clearing will occur as a result of their changes to land clearing laws - this is not acceptable.
- The primary threat to biodiversity is habitat destruction and these new laws will only make it easier to clear habitat.
- Our soils have already suffered significant deterioration. Enacting laws that make it easier to remove vegetation will only accelerate this process.
- There is no scientific evidence suggesting that the use of offsets as the government intends will improve biodiversity.
- We need trees to cope with drought and ensure a good water cycle for our farmlands. Have we learnt nothing from history?
- Our wildlife need trees for homes and food

Please help our wildlife.



*Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc.*

*thank*



**MORUYA  
VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

**Phone: 02 4474 2532  
Fax: 02 4474 4186**

**Address: 86-88 Queen St  
Moruya, NSW 2537**

*for their generous donation of various  
items to help us help wildlife.*



The Victorian Wildlife Council are proud to announce they will be hosting the 10th Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference in Melbourne in 2016. The event will be held in Melbourne at Central Pier Docklands from the 1st - 4th August. The theme for the 10th conference;

*CONNECTING TO COUNTRY.*

<http://melbourne.awrc.org.au/melbourne-conference.html>

**Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference**

<http://www.seechange festival.org.au/>

**see  
change**

**jervis bay arts  
festival 2016**

**20 MAY – 13 JUNE**



## *Wildlife Rescue South Coast Training....*

### **Possum & Glider course 29 May 2016**

It was wonderful to see the WRSC members who braved the morning's extremely cold 2°C temperature to attend the Possum & Glider course. The venue was the Cobargo Rural Fire Services Hall and we like to thank the RFS for their generous support which took the form of using the hall and its facilities. The urn was busy all day generating those warming cups of tea needed, along with scarfs and beanies to keep everyone cosy and comfortable.

Everyone found the course very interesting and together we learnt a lot and had a few laughs. Of special interest was the content of the new starter packs, the participants have their kits and are now ready for rescuing and caring for those possums and gliders that may be in need of a little help.

### **Introduction to Rescuing Wildlife & Rescue Telephone Sunday 15 May 2016**

Thanks again go out to the Cobargo Rural Fire Services for the support and the use of their hall. Quite a few new members attended and everyone learnt a lot. I am looking forward to seeing you all at other wildlife courses in the future.

Regards, Bronwyn

WRSC • Bird • Possum & Glider • Phone and Roster • Coordinator in the Far South Coast region

## *A special thanks....*

Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc. would like to thank the Animal Link Foundation for the wonderful package of donated knitted possum joey pouches that arrived via the post. These pouches (below right photo) were placed into the new starter kits and distributed at the above mentioned possum & glider training course. Please accept our sincere thank you to all of the Foundation volunteers for your hard work in making these wonderful pouches and for helping us help wildlife.

All Photos © WRSC Bronwyn



## Not in my backyard? How to live alongside flying-foxes in urban Australia

May 27, 2016 6.10am AEST

### Authors:

Justin Welbergen, Senior Lecturer in Animal Ecology, Western Sydney University  
Peggy Eby, Adjunct Senior Lecturer, Centre for Ecosystem Science, UNSW Australia

<https://theconversation.com/not-in-my-backyard-how-to-live-alongside-flying-foxes-in-urban-australia-59893>

The conflict between urbanites and wildlife recently developed a new battleground: the small coastal New South Wales town of Batemans Bay, where the exceptional flowering of spotted gums has attracted a huge influx of grey-headed flying-foxes from across Australia's southeast.

In response to intense and highly publicised community concern, federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt has announced he will seek an immediate National Interest Exemption to facilitate dispersal of these bats – a move that risks undermining legal protections afforded to this and other threatened species.

Similar conflicts are occurring elsewhere in NSW, such as the Hunter region, where some unscrupulous members of the public lit a fire in a flying-fox roost at Cessnock.

With the ongoing expansion of the human urban footprint, animals are increasingly confronted with urban environments. Human encroachment into natural habitats generally negatively affects biodiversity. However, urban landscapes can present wildlife with an irresistible lure of reliable food supplies and other resources. While urban wildlife can provide a range of benefits to health and wellbeing, it can also be cause for frustration and conflict.

Urban human-wildlife conflict is a growing area of management concern and scientific research. But the research suggests that the current strategies for addressing NSW's conflicts between humans and flying-foxes might not have the intended results.

### Ruling the urban roost

Australian flying-foxes are becoming more urbanised, and the noise, smell and droppings from their roosts can have huge impacts on local residents.

A fundamental problem underlying current approaches to urban roosts is a lack of understanding of the extraordinary mobility of flying-foxes. They are some of the most mobile animals in Australia, with movements that range from foraging trips of up to 120 km in a single night to long-distance nomadism covering thousands of kilometres in a single year.

While roosts can remain active for decades, they are more like backpacker hostels than stable households, housing a constantly changing clientele that comes to visit local attractions. Roosts are connected into large networks through which flying-foxes move in response to changes in local food resources.

This explains the sudden influx in places such as Batemans Bay where preferred food suddenly becomes abundant. But it also highlights the importance of a national approach to flying-fox management and conservation.

Intense local flowerings of Eucalypts, such as spotted gums, produce copious amounts of nectar and pollen, which attract large numbers of flying-foxes and other species for several weeks. When a relatively small local flying-fox population that is tolerated by its human neighbours suddenly increases tenfold, it can place severe pressure on the local community.

Despite their transient nature, these influxes are often wrongly interpreted as population explosions, leading to calls for culling. In comparison, more humane tactics – such as using loud noise or vegetation removal to disperse the flying-foxes – can seem like a more balanced response. But does dispersal actually work?

### Shifting the problem elsewhere

There is now ample evidence to show that dispersals are extremely costly and can exacerbate the very human-wildlife conflict that they aim to resolve.

Most dispersals result in the flying-foxes returning the original roost as soon as the dispersal program ends, because naïve new individuals continue to arrive from elsewhere. Overcoming this can take months or years of repeated daily dispersal.

Other dispersals result in flying-foxes establishing new roosts a few hundred metres away, typically within the same urban environment in locations that we cannot control. This risks shifting the problem to previously unaffected members of a community and to other communities nearby.

While flying-foxes are often portrayed as noisy pests, they serve our economic interest by providing irreplaceable pollination and seed-dispersal services for free. What's more, those same bats that annoy people during the day work tirelessly at night to maintain the health of our fragmented forests and natural ecosystems.

So it is in our national interest to manage conflict at urban roosts, by using approaches that balance community concerns with environmental considerations. To be considered "successful", a dispersal should permanently reduce conflict to a level that is acceptable to the community without causing significant harm to the animals. However, dispersals are currently implemented at the local council level with little or no monitoring of the impacts in or outside the immediately affected area. This makes it hard to assess whether they have been successful.

For example, it is not uncommon for flowering to cease and flying-fox numbers to decline naturally during the period of active dispersal. This gives the community a false sense that a permanent solution has been achieved, when in fact the issues will recur the next time the trees blossom. There is thus an urgent need for urban roosts to be managed with properly defined and applied criteria for success.



© WRSC Janine Davies

## Not in my backyard? How to live alongside flying-foxes in urban Australia (Cont'd)

### Evidence-based management

Unfortunately, lack of research effort directed at “ugly” and “less popular” Australian animals means that very few evidence-based management tools are available to deal with contentious roosts.

Research targeting a few key areas would greatly help efforts to improve urban roost management. For instance, we do not know how flying-foxes choose their roost sites, which leaves us unable to design “carrot solutions” by creating more attractive roost sites elsewhere.

Intensive tree-flowering events are relatively infrequent and hard to predict. This means that it is difficult to prepare communities for a sudden influx of flying-foxes.

Furthermore, the acceptability of various flying-fox management options differs between sections of the community, so it is difficult to find optimal solutions. Social scientists are currently trying to help identify priority areas that promote long-term viability of flying-foxes while also easing conflict with humans.

The extreme mobility of flying-foxes means that a uniform federal approach for management is needed. Local, state and federal governments continue to allocate considerable funds for dispersal responses, even though such actions are high-risk activities for local communities and are unlikely to provide long-term solutions. We argue strongly that targeted research is needed to better inform land managers and affected communities of flying-fox ecology and provide them with low-cost, low-risk, evidence-based tools for dealing with urban roosts.

Flying-foxes don't care about legislative borders, and state-based responsibility for wildlife management leads to discontinuity in approaches between jurisdictions. While flying-foxes are being monitored at the national scale, this initiative needs to be combined with a uniform federal approach for managing flying-foxes in our human landscapes. Otherwise, conflicts such as those faced by the residents of Batemans Bay will continue unabated.



### Disclosure statement

Justin Welbergen is President of the Australasian Bat Society, a not-for-profit organisation that aims to promote the conservation of bats, and receives funding from the Australian Research Council.

Peggy Eby represents the scientific community on the NSW Flying-Fox Consultative Committee, a not-for-profit stakeholder group that assists government in developing strategies for conserving and managing flying-foxes in NSW. She works as an ecological consultant to government and industry



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WRSC Nikki Hunter, another member that attended the 2014 Venomous Snake Training Course with John Mostyn was called to rescue this Red-Bellied Black snake (above) on 19 May 2016. All safe and sound after the successful release.

Only trained handlers can rescue snakes especially venomous snakes.

*A video you might be interested in....*

### Parrots Documentary National Geographic 2015 - BEST Australian Parrots Video

Published on Oct 14, 2015

Parrots Documentary National Geographic 2015 - BEST Australian Parrots Video. Amazing animals of telegraph hill documentary.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=415R0Zh7Cwo> 42:16

Parrots, also known as psittacines, are birds of the roughly 372 species in 86 genera that make up the order Psittaciformes, found in most tropical and subtropical regions. The order is subdivided into three superfamilies: the Psittacoidea ("true" parrots), the Cacatuoidea (cockatoos), and the Strigopoidea (New Zealand parrots). Parrots have a generally pantropical distribution with several species inhabiting temperate regions in the Southern Hemisphere, as well. The greatest diversity of parrots is in South America and Australasia.



# Wildlife Rescue South Coast Training

## ❖ Introduction to Bird Rescue - First Aid & Care

Calling for expressions of interest ~ course date tba

Are you new to the world of birds – let me know if you wish to come along and join us. A full day is planned to introduce new and existing members to bird rescue and rehabilitation. It will cover adults coming into care from injury or disease and the rearing of orphaned chicks to release back to the wild. For existing members, come along to keep your training records current and to share and refresh your skills.



To register your interest please contact:

**Bronwyn**

**Bird / Possum & Glider Coordinator**

(FSC region) 0415 641 743

email: [nativeanimalcarer@hotmail.com](mailto:nativeanimalcarer@hotmail.com)

or

**Jenny Packwood WRSC Secretary**

0418497345 or email: [secretary@wildlife-rescue.org.au](mailto:secretary@wildlife-rescue.org.au)



This August course will be held at  
**'Cobargo Rural Fire Services Hall'**  
Wandella Road, Cobargo

(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)

Morning and afternoon tea provided  
BYO lunch



## FREE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP IN GERROA

### Draft Biodiversity Conservation Bill: How to have your say

**WHEN:** Monday 20 June 2016  
6-8pm

**WHERE:** Gerroa Neighbourhood  
Centre  
37 Stafford Street  
Gerroa

**RSVP:** 02 9262 6989  
[www.edonsw.org.au/gerroa\\_2016](http://www.edonsw.org.au/gerroa_2016)

Please bring a plate to share for  
supper

Gerroa Environmental Protection Society will host a free EDO NSW and NCC workshop in Gerroa explaining how the community can have their say about the proposed biodiversity legislative and policy package.

The NSW Government's *Biodiversity Conservation Bill*, *Local Land Services Amendment Bill*, and information about proposed land clearing codes is open for public comment until Tuesday 28 June 2016. This legislative and policy package is designed to replace the *Native Vegetation Act*, *Threatened Species Conservation Act*, the *Nature Conservation Trust Act* and parts of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act*.

This workshop will explain what is proposed under the legislative and policy package, our concerns with these proposals, and how the community can have their say.



• Successful environmental outcomes using the law • Broad environmental expertise • Independent and accessible

0418 427 214 • Illawarra, Southern Highlands and South Coast • Eurobodalla and Sapphire Coasts • 0417 238 921

*Come and say 'hi' to us ....*

11 June 2016

8am to 1pm

### *Bowral Public School Markets*

Boolwey Street, Bowral  
Kerstin and Woody are there every  
2nd Saturday of each month



12 June 2016

10am to 2pm

### *Bodalla School Fair*

7 Potato Point Rd  
Bodalla NSW

26 June 2016

8.30am to 12.30pm

### *Bermagui Hand & Homemade Market*

Dickson Park, Bermagui  
Say 'hi' to WRSC members Leah and Mike  
Last Sunday of every month



3 July 2016

8am to 12pm

### *Candelo Market*

First Sunday of every month

10 July 2016

9.30am to 3pm

### *Bundanoon Winterfest*

Bundanoon Oval, Erith Street, Bundanoon



#### NEEDED

If any Wildlife Rescue South Coast members or families/friends or local artists have any unwanted saleable items in reasonable condition (doesn't have to be perfect) - such as:

Books/DVDs/CDs \* Plants \* Costume jewellery \* Bric-a-brac \* Board games etc. \*  
Home decorations \* Crockery \*

We would really appreciate anything that we can get. Every dollar adds up!

Items could also be distributed to other WRSC market stalls in Candelo, Merimbula and elsewhere. We could also use any larger or very valuable items for future fundraising events such as raffles/auctions/prizes.

If you are not too far away from Coolagolite we are happy to collect items or to meet people halfway. Items can also be dropped off at any of the Eurobodalla and Sapphire coasts markets WRSC have a stall at.

Our contact details are

Leah Reid 0407 209 966. [Leah.reid@bigpond.com](mailto:Leah.reid@bigpond.com). and Mike Ryan 0400 752 599

*Wildlife Rescue South Coast was seen at....*

'Green Flicks Illawarra' Environment Expo  
presented by NSW Office of Environment and Heritage  
Friday 3 June at the Regent Theatre in Wollongong.



'Green Flicks' was a short film competition for local school children with the topic: 'Small World, Big Trouble'. The afternoon expo was to celebrate World Environment Day while showcasing the films by these talented children and to announce the winners in each age category. The overall winner was a 12 year old inspired by her bush backyard.

The expo also involved displays by local environmental groups including Wollongong Council Bushcare, Australian Seabird Rescue, National Parks & Wildlife Services, Shellharbour City Council, TAFE, Wollongong University, Illawarra Birders and of course Wildlife Rescue South Coast, to name a few.

There was a huge turnout, including local media and it was a great event.

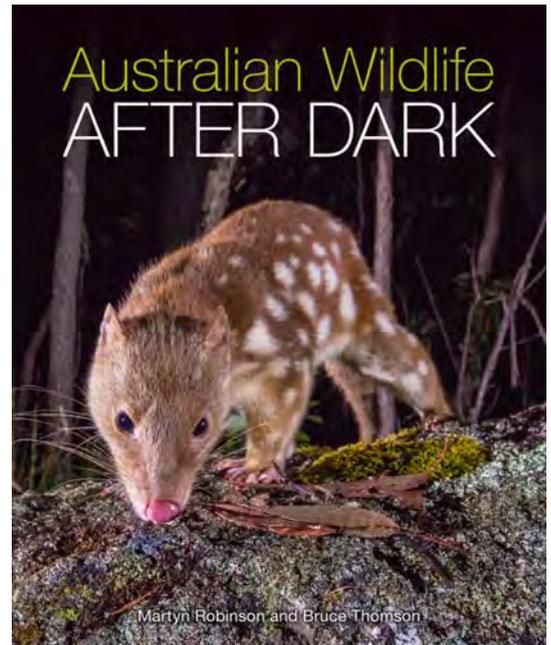
*Review and Photos © WRSC Cathy Jaye*



*Below: Sam and Cathy with the King & Queen of Green*



*A book you may be interested in....*



### **Australian Wildlife After Dark**

Martyn Robinson - Australian Museum  
Bruce Thomson - Australian Museum

Colour photographs 160 pages  
270 x 210 mm Publisher: CSIRO Publishing

Paperback **NEW** - April 2016

ISBN: 9781486300723 - AU \$ 35.00

Australia is a land of many unique animals, some of which are active only during the cooler evening and night-time and so are rarely seen. These are the after dark animals so widespread yet so little noticed by humans, whether in our backyards, the arid desert, woodlands or rainforest.

*Australian Wildlife After Dark* brings this hidden fauna into the light. The after dark fauna includes a surprising diversity of familiar (and some not-so-familiar) species, from cockroaches, moths and spiders through to bandicoots, bats and birds – and then some. Each example is described in a unique, friendly style by Martyn Robinson, familiar to many Australians through his frequent media appearances on ABC Radio and in *Burke's Backyard* magazine, and Bruce Thomson, an internationally renowned wildlife photographer and bat researcher. The book includes stunning photography and boxes that highlight selected topics, such as the 'windscreen wiper' eyelids of geckoes and the strategies used by night-time plants to attract pollinators. Also included are practical tips on finding nocturnal wildlife, a glossary of scientific terms and a short bibliography.

- Brilliant wildlife photography that reveals both common and unusual animals not often seen.
- Knowledgeable, lively narration that engages the reader.
- Interesting cross-section of animal groups represented, not just possums and owls.

Practical information to get you started spotting animals in your urban backyard, then to venture out to other environments. The book would appeal to a general family audience, wildlife enthusiasts, bushwalkers, amateur naturalists, national parks lovers, natural history museum visitors, and overseas visitors.

# BODALLA SCHOOL FAIR

When: 12th June 2016

What Time:  
10:00am-2:00pm



Where:  
Bodalla Primary School,  
7 Potato Point Road,  
Bodalla NSW

Pricing:  
Family-FREE ENTRY

A great day for all the family!!

Many market stalls, lots of delicious food,  
rides for the kids and entertainment galore.

For more information phone 02 4473 5131 or  
email [bodallapandcassociation@gmail.com](mailto:bodallapandcassociation@gmail.com)

“What is wrong with my beak and feathers?”  
ask Wildlife Rescue South Coast



For more information visit:

<http://www.wildlife-rescue.org.au/please-dont-feed-the-birds.html>

Image © WRSC Christine Moss