



March 2017

Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc
PO Box 666 Nowra NSW 2541

NPWS Licence No: MWL000100253 | ABN 49 616 307 526

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

E: info@wildlife-rescue.org.au | W: www.wildlife-rescue.org.au | Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/Wildlife.Rescue.SC>



*Please help us help Wildlife
'Slow down!'
as most orphans in our care
lost their Mums after being hit by cars*

TO HELP US PLEASE DONATE....



BSB 641 800
Account 200469788
Name Wildlife Rescue Fund
☺ Please email your bank confirmation receipt to
treasurer@wildlife-rescue.org.au
or
PayPal & credit card via the website
☺ \$2 or more are tax deductible

<http://www.wildlife-rescue.org.au/please-donate.html>

A special thank you....

To the businesses who support Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc. by allowing one of our donation tins in their premises and their patrons who generously & regularly give which helps us with our rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

Albatross Navy Base Canteen

Kangaroo Valley Bake House

Rockabellas Roadside Diner Robertson

To the individual generous February donors:

David B

Ellie G

Tania R

Liz W

Zoe B

Nathaly H

Jodie R

Anthea W

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Phillip & Timea S

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Alana W

To the businesses and organization who donated to Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc.

G Gunstone Desert Developments
Pty Ltd

Wholefoods Store
Merry Maidens' Veggies Milton

Good2Give Companies
Westpac Group & Toyota Australia for
matching their employees' contributions

All of your generous donations go directly towards helping us help wildlife. If you have made a donation to Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc. and have not received your tax deductible receipt or your name has not been included in the list and you wish it to be please contact us at treasurer@wildlife-rescue.org.au.

Please if you make a donation, especially by direct debit, email the bank confirmation receipt to treasurer@wildlife-rescue.org.au and tell us why and/or the species you wish the donation to go towards. We want to thank you, we want your donation to go to the intended recipient and we want to send you a tax deductible receipt for helping us help wildlife. We can't do it without you.



Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc. General Meetings
are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month
starting at 7pm
in the Nowra Library Annex
10 Berry Street, Nowra
Refreshments provided & Visitors are welcome



Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc.

thank

BIG4 Moruya Heads

East's Dolphin Beach

Holiday Park

for being one of our 2017 calendar sponsors

Draft Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying-fox Public comment

You are invited to comment on this draft recovery plan in accordance with the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The public comment period closes **24 April 2017**.

If you wish to comment on this draft plan, please send your comments, quoting the title of the plan, to:

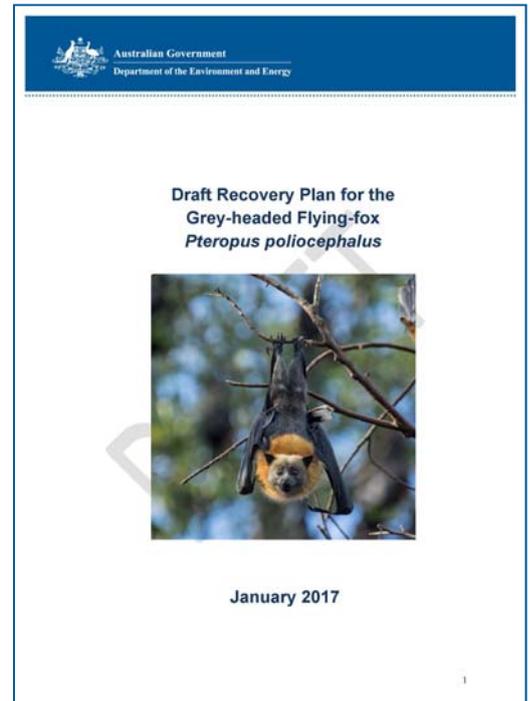
Email: recoveryplans@environment.gov.au

Mail:

The Director
Terrestrial Threatened Species Section
Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division
Department of the Environment and Energy
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

About this document

The draft recovery plan sets out the research and management actions necessary to stop the decline, and support the recovery of this species.



<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/recovery-plans/comment/draft-recovery-plan-grey-headed-flying-fox>



Hannah Lloyd

Wildlife Regulation Officer,
Biodiversity and Wildlife Team
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
43 Bridge Street, Hurstville, NSW, 2220
T 02 9585 6523

E hannah.lloyd@environment.nsw.gov.au

W environment.nsw.gov.au/
nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Australian Bat Lyssavirus Exclusion Procedures

I just wanted to send you a quick update on some information we received from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) that we would like to update your members on.

As you know, the standard procedure for wildlife rehabilitators to follow when a flying fox has either scratched or bitten someone is to submit the animal to a vet who will organise for the animal to be submitted to the state government laboratory (EMAI) for Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV) testing.

DPI noted that recently two animals were submitted to EMAI directly from a wildlife carer for ABLV testing. As the standard procedure of submitting animals is via a vet, in this case the appropriate paper work was not completed and NSW Health was unable to contact the patient to provide them with health care information. DPI has suggested in situations where a vet is not available to assist, carers can refer the case to the EAD Hotline on 1800 675 888, who will facilitate the submission process.

DPI also wanted to highlight their appreciation for the hard work of wildlife carers and their valuable support in assisting with ABLV exclusion.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Hannah



The 2016/17 Committee....

President

Richard Woodman (Woody)

Vice President

Dusty Jones

Treasurer

Vikki Dooper

Secretary

Jenny Packwood

Committee Members

Margaret Barnaby

Debbie Colbert

Kim Goodsell

Sam Jaye

Email addresses.....

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membership@wildlife-rescue.org.au

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payments@wildlife-rescue.org.au

president@wildlife-rescue.org.au

secretary@wildlife-rescue.org.au

treasurer@wildlife-rescue.org.au

training@wildlife-rescue.org.au



**Wildlife Rescue South Coast Training
PROVIDE FIRST AID**

*(This course was formally known as
Senior First Aid and Apply First Aid)*

This course is nationally recognized.

Participants are required to complete an online learning session prior to the face to face course date, print off the completion certificate and bring it to the practical training day they attend.

Sunday 2 April

Shoalhaven Ex Servicemen's Club

(Function room)

157 Junction St, Nowra

or

Wednesday 26 April

Shoalhaven Ex-Servicemen's Sports Club

131 Greenwell Point Rd, Worrigee

Cost is \$65 per person payable in advance

For initial registration and full information
contact

Debbie Colbert

colbertd@westnet.com.au or 0403 305 948

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In the interest of our members the Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc. Committee have followed up on enquiries regarding insurance and liability with emphasis on reptiles and provides the following information.

These guidelines are specifically intended for those members who are suitably qualified with WRSC in the rescue and/or relocation of snakes and monitors and are attending rescue/relocations for any commercial enterprise.

After consultation with the insurance representative for NSW Wildlife Council who organise insurance for all wildlife groups and NPWS licensing, if you are called to attend a rescue/relocation by a commercial enterprise you will need to have your own insurance or make sure you are covered by the insurance held by the commercial enterprise you are working for.

You are NOT covered by our WRSC insurance unless you are attending a rescue/relocation for WRSC and any monetary proceeds/payments obtained, directly or indirectly, must be treated as a donation to WRSC.

You are of course at liberty to attend rescues/relocations on behalf of commercial enterprises if you have your own catch and release licence AND insurance OR if you wish to act under that enterprise's licence and insurance coverage, NPWS advises you must be listed on their licence as an "authorised person", essentially meeting the same requirements as applying for your own catch and release licence.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Woody, WRSC President, who has been involved with these consultations.



Wombat Conference 2017

18 & 19 March



Panthers
Leagues Club
Penrith NSW



The members' section of www.wildlife-rescue.org.au...

The Events and Training pages are regularly updated, usually the weekend between the monthly committee and general meetings. The members' section is password protected, if members have forgotten the password please contact membership@wildlife-rescue.org.au.



Events

This page includes information about events that might be of interest to members, and events that WRSC have been invited to attend - and we are looking for members to volunteer to help.



Training courses

As dates, times and venues are confirmed they will be included in the Newsletter, on our Facebook page and the web site.

Sooty Tern - (Wideawake Bird)

Contributed and photos supplied by Betty Spilsted
Australian Seabird Rescue (ASR), Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association Inc. (SOSSA)
and Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc (WRSC) member

Australian Seabird Rescue received a call from a young man, Amon, who had picked a bird up on Green Island at Manyana (approx 3 hours south of Wollongong) Amon tried to send a photo for identification but it didn't work so I asked him to ring the absolute expert, Lindsay Smith of SOSSA.

Lindsay identified the bird as a Sooty Tern from his description over the phone and advised Amon what to do. Sadly the bird died overnight, but a big thank you to Lyn (Amon's Mum) for ringing us, then agreeing to put it in the freezer and bring it up to Wollongong on their way home from holidays.



The Sooty Tern is a true pelagic bird – never coming to the mainland under normal conditions. Resorts to islands only to breed, then disperses to sea. The nickname “Wideawake” comes from the distinctive wideawake call!

With an impressive wingspan of almost a metre and weighing only between 140 to 190 gms this is a beautiful bird! The flocks skim and dip when foraging, rarely settling on the water as they are not waterproof.

The Sooty Tern could easily be confused with the Bridled Tern that is slightly smaller with a white eyebrow. The Bridled Tern returns to land at night and their range extends to Western Australia and South Australia.

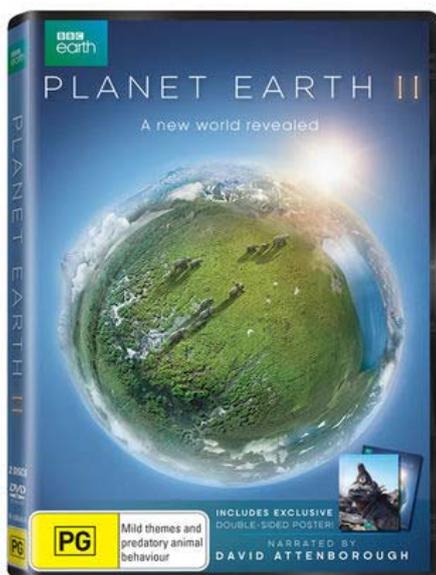
There are 42 described species of terns of which 20 are known from Australia. It is 95% certain this bird had come from Lord Howe Island or Norfolk Island, caught up in wild weather.

So - this is a very rare bird to be found on the NSW South Coast and is now at the Australian Museum.

Pointing out once again the importance of getting these birds (dead or alive) for correct identification, rehabilitation and research to SOSSA (contact Lindsay on 02-4272 4626).

In the case of rehabilitation contact ASR or if distance is a problem SOSSA will advise. However with Albatrosses it is essential, after assessment that they go to Taronga Zoo Hospital if injured.

Many thanks to Lindsay and also Lyn & Amon for their help!



Planet Earth II is an immersive exploration of the jungles, mountains, deserts, islands, grasslands and cities of the world. Journey to the four corners of the globe to discover the extreme forces that shape life in each of these iconic landscapes and experience the world from the viewpoint of animals themselves. From spellbinding wildlife spectacle to intimate encounters, Planet Earth II takes you closer than ever before.



In 2017 Wildlife Rescue South Coast will be at....



Bermagui Markets....

Sunday 26 March

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.



Candelo Markets....

Sunday 2 April

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



NOWRA SPEEDWAY

**Help operate the Nowra Speedway
'Pit Stop' canteen.**

18 March, 1 & 23 April 2017

Hours are 3.30pm until 9.30pm with various duties including preparing food, selling and operating the BBQ. It's a fun evening and could potentially bring in a lot of funds for our wildlife as a percentage of the profits from the night go to WRSC.

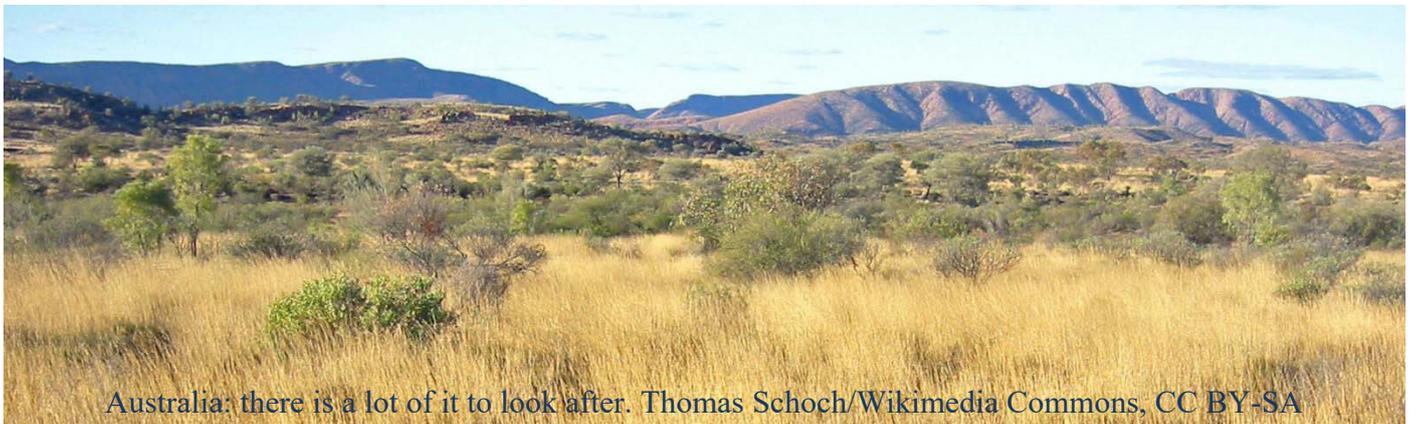


Please contact
Ian Usher
0408 216 467
if you can help out
on any
or all nights.



THE ANNUAL BURRAWANG EASTER MARKET IS ONE OF THE LONGEST RUNNING MARKETS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS. THE ENTIRE MAIN STREET OF THE NORMALLY SEDATE VILLAGE BECOMES A PEDESTRIAN ONLY AREA FILLED WITH WONDERFUL THINGS (AND THOUSANDS OF VISITORS!)

THE BURRAWANG EASTER MARKET IS OPEN FROM 8AM UNTIL 3PM ON EASTER SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH 2017



Australia: there is a lot of it to look after. Thomas Schoch/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA

The environment needs billions of dollars more: here's how to raise the money

February 7, 2017 6.15am AEDT

Authors

Paul Martin Director, Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law, University of New England

Amy Cosby Researcher, Centre for Agriculture and Law, University of New England

Kip Werren Lecturer in Law, University of New England

Disclosure statement

The authors do not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and have disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond the academic appointment above

Extinction threatens iconic Australian birds and animals. The regent honeyeater, the orange-bellied parrot, and Leadbeater's possum have all entered the list of critically endangered species.

It is too late for the more than 50 species that are already extinct, including bettongs, various wallabies, and many others. Despite international commitments, policies and projects, Australia's biodiversity outcomes remain unsatisfactory.

A 2015 review of Australia's 2010-2050 Biodiversity Conservation Strategy found that it has failed to "effectively guide the efforts of governments, other organisations or individuals".

Insufficient resourcing is one cause of biodiversity loss. The challenge is impressive. Australia must tackle degradation and fragmentation of habitat, invasive species, unsustainable use of resources, the deterioration of the aquatic environment and water flows, increased fire events, and climate change.

This all requires money to support private landholders conducting conservation activities, to fund research, to manage public lands, and to support other conservation activities conducted by governments, industry, and individuals.

So where can we find the funds?

How much money is needed?

We have estimated that Australia's biodiversity protection requires an equivalent investment to defence spending – roughly 2% of gross domestic product.

Of course, such estimates are up for debate given that how much money is required depends on what we want the environment to look like, which methods we use, and how well they work. Other studies point to a similar conclusion: far more money is needed to achieve significantly better outcomes.

Apart from government funding, private landholders, businesses, communities, Indigenous Australians, and non-government organisations contribute significantly to natural resource management. We were unable to quantify their collective cash and in-kind contributions, as the information is not available. But we do know that farmers spend around A\$3 billion each year on natural resource management.

Nonetheless, the erosion of environmental values indicates that the level of spending required to sufficiently meet conservation targets far exceeds the amount currently being spent. The investment required is similar to value of agriculture in Australia.

Unfortunately, the concentration of wealth and labour sets a limit to what any given community can pay. Despite a high GDP per person and very wealthy cities, Australia has fewer than 0.1 people per hectare and a wealth intensity (GDP per hectare) of less than US\$2,000 due to the sparse population and income of rural Australia.

Australia's rural population has declined sharply, from over 18% in 1960 to around 10% today. Other countries (for example in Europe) are not limited to the same degree. Even China has a greater rural resource intensity than Australia.

Rural incomes are often volatile, but environmental investments need to be sustained. The history of Landcare highlights that private landholders have struggled to secure a reliable investment basis for sustainably managing the environment.

Can government pay what is required?

If Australia is serious about the environment, we need to know who will pay for biodiversity protection (a public good). This is especially true given that it is not feasible for rural (particularly Indigenous) landholders and communities to invest the required amount.

Will government be the underpinning investor? The federal government's current spending program on natural resource management was initiated in 2014 with an allocation of A\$2 billion over four years.

This was split between the second National Landcare Program, the (now-defunded) Green Army, the Working on Country program, the Land Sector Package, the Reef 2050 plan, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, and the Whale and Dolphin Protection Plan.

As well as federal funding, the state, territory, and local governments invest in public lands, bushfire mitigation, waste management, water management, environmental research and development, biodiversity programs, and environmental policies. Local and state government departments together spend around A\$4.9 billion each year on natural resource management.

The problem is that government spending on natural resource management can not be significantly increased in the near future due to fiscal pressures and the focus on reducing budget deficits.

Show us the money

At a time when Australia is reconsidering many aspects of its environmental policies, we should address the strategy for funding natural resource management.

It should be possible to leverage more private spending on the environment preferably as part of a coordinated strategy. Diverse, market-based approaches are being used around the world.

For example, we could use market instruments such as biodiversity banking to support landholders in protecting biodiversity.

Taxation incentives, such as a generous tax offset for landholders who spend money on improving the environment, can be a very powerful catalyst and could be crucial for meeting environmental investment needs.

Evidence suggests that integrating a variety of mechanisms into a coordinated business model for the environment is likely to be the most efficient and effective approach. But this will not happen unless Australia faces the fiscal challenge of sustainability head-on.

Australia needs an innovative investment plan for the environment. By combining known funding methods and investment innovation, Australia can reduce the gap between what we currently spend and what the environment needs.

Without a more sophisticated investment strategy, it is likely that Australia will continue on the trajectory of decline.



Conservation doesn't come cheap. Leadbeater's possum (left) by Tirin (www.takver.com) (Own work) and Male Swift parrot (right) by JJ Harrison (jjharrison89@facebook.com) - (Own work), CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

THE CONVERSATION



<http://theconversation.com/the-environment-needs-billions-of-dollars-more-heres-how-to-raise-the-money-70401>



New Biodiversity Conservation Trust

The state government is establishing a new biodiversity conservation trust for conservation efforts on private land. The Trust will be guided by a Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy, which will identify priority investment areas and principles for investment.

Funding for private land conservation

The NSW Government has committed \$240 million over five years to invest in private land conservation (PLC), and \$70 million in ongoing funding subject to performance reviews.

A new Biodiversity Conservation Trust will deliver this investment on behalf of government by working with landholders to establish private land conservation agreements. A Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy made by the Minister for the Environment will guide the Trust. The strategy will contain principles that will help in identifying priority investment areas and investment in those areas, including a state-wide map.

Improved oversight

Stakeholders were supportive of the establishment of the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and welcomed investment in private land conservation, provided there are adequate checks and balances.

The new legislation includes a strengthened governance framework for the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to guide and support the Trust to fulfil its substantial responsibilities under the biodiversity offsets scheme and private land conservation program. The Biodiversity Conservation Trust will be subject to the direction of the Minister for the Environment and the Minister will approve the Trust's business plan. Directions will be published to ensure transparency.

The changes establish a more appropriate level of ministerial oversight for the scope and scale of the Trust's activities and the significant public funds it will manage.

The Trust will publish information about its approach to biodiversity offsets and private land conservation and outcomes achieved through its business plan, annual reporting and other communications.

For more information visit <https://www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au/private-land-conservation/>

Reed Concise Guide: Frogs Of Australia

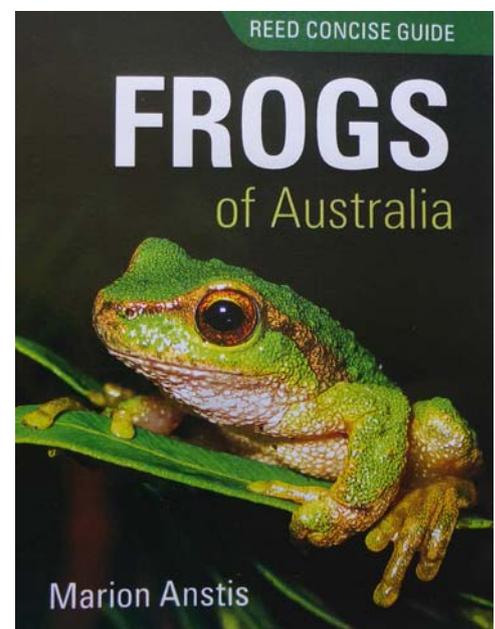
Marion Anstis

ISBN: 9781921517907 Publication Date: 1 January 2017
Pages: 192 Dimensions: 90 x 120mm

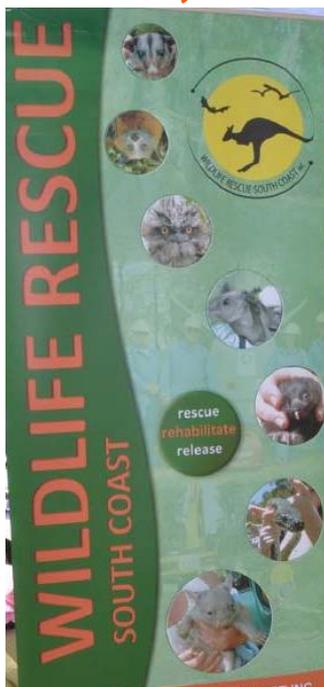
A new title in the existing popular series of the Reed Concise Field Guides to Australian Wildlife. This is the ultimate pocket guide to the country's frogs. It may be diminutive in size but it punches well above its weight in terms of usefulness, jam packed with more than 200 images of all the species most likely to be encountered in Australia.

For each of the 180 species accounts there is at least one photograph for identification and a brief written account listing key ID features, range and habitat, behaviour and call. The book covers all of the most common and widespread species likely to be encountered in Australia – from Striped Burrowing Frog and Short-footed Frog to Green Tree Frog and Common Eastern Froglet – along with some of the more unusual and scarce species to look out for – such as Southern Corroboree Frog, Green and Golden Bell Frog and Southern Gastric Brooding Frog.

The easy-to-use layouts and small size make it ideal for taking on days out or walks in the bush. It is ideal for beginners or wildlife-watchers of an intermediate level, and also for children as a first book on frogs. Retail: \$14.99



Wildlife Rescue South Coast was seen at....



With weather conditions that seemed to take their cue from another planet, the Nowra and Kangaroo Valley Shows provided challenges and joys that our hardy and valiant volunteers have come to relish. I hope I speak for everyone on this. We certainly coped with a lot at KV and came out victorious. Our sturdy gazebo was a star.

Nowra Show Saturday 11 February

The day was a warm one. This is an understatement but our volunteers were not deterred. We always hope to attract the public to our stall and the Nowra Show proved to be no exception.

Kangaroo Valley Show Friday 17 and Saturday 18 February

I can personally testify to the crazy weather conditions that kept us on our toes for the show. Our brave volunteers and their trusty reptilian comrades braved heat, wind, rain and if I'm not mistaken, hail. But what a great time we all had. Above all else it was the joy of the children and adults who were so keen to find out about the work we do to rescue, rehabilitate and release our precious wildlife. That is why these public events are so important, not only to WRSC but also the animals we serve.

Nowra Speedway

The annual Car Show n Shine event is so close to Ian and Shirley Usher's hearts and also a great fund raiser for WRSC and Kidzfix. The Nowra Speedway canteen nights are a lot of fun, meeting the public and serving their fave snag sandwiches and other canteen favourites. The next dates are coming up so contact Ian and join us for a fun night.

Review WRSC Margaret Barnaby



Canteen duty © WRSC Sam Jaye

A facebook page that may interest...

https://www.facebook.com/australianwildlifephotography/?ref=page_internal

NEW!



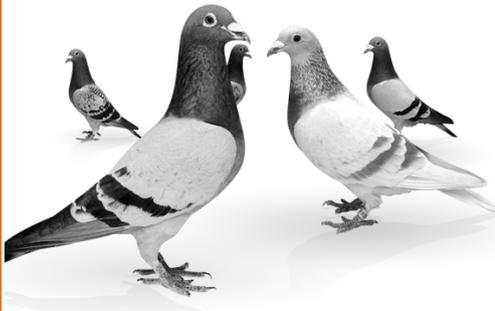
**Australian
Wildlife Society**
Conserving Australia's Wildlife
since 1909

Australian Fauna and Flora Photography
@ australianwildlifephotography

Love Australian Wildlife?
Love photography?
Then this page is for you.
Upload and share your snaps of Australian wildlife.

Rotavirus pigeon disease

Information from the
Department of Primary Industries (DPI).



A highly infectious rotavirus disease has been found in racing and non-racing pigeons in several states, including NSW. DPI is leading the investigation into suspect cases in NSW.

It is not known what impact the virus may have on native birds, but as a precaution wildlife rehabilitators who house domestic pigeons should maintain strict biosecurity measures to minimise the risk of transmitting the disease to native bird populations. In addition, information about any unexplained wild (feral or native) pigeon mortalities may be useful for ongoing investigation of this emerging disease.

Clinical signs of the virus may include: diarrhoea, vomiting, depression, and a hunched over position. Birds that appear sick usually died within 12 to 24 hours. There is no known zoonotic risk of the virus, however pigeons may carry other diseases which have the potential infect humans, and as you know good biosecurity and hygiene practices are always encouraged around wildlife.

If wildlife carers suspect rotavirus in domestic pigeons they should contact their local vet. If wildlife carers are aware of any unusual mortalities in wild (feral or native) pigeons they should notify:

Claire Harrison
(claire.harrison@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or

Kate Wingett
(kate.wingett@dpi.nsw.gov.au) from DPI.

For more information please see the DPI Biosecurity Bulletin
http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/698377/biosecurity-bulletin-rotavirus-pigeon-disease.pdf

Oceans of Plastic

Life without plastic is almost unimaginable. It's become central to the way we live our lives - from everyday items like food packaging and water bottles, to sophisticated high end products. But how many of us know what happens to that plastic when we throw it away?

"We quantified and estimated that 8 million metric tonnes of plastic entered the ocean (in one year)." **Environmental Engineer**

Scientists say vast amounts of our discarded plastic is ending up in the ocean.

"There's so much plastic going in and we have no idea where it is." **Oceanographer**

Working out where that plastic ends up and what impact it has on our oceans has become a major concern for many marine scientists.

"Submarine pilots know when they are at the bottom of the sea because they see the plastic." **Environmental Scientist**

Four Corners brings you this thought provoking story from French filmmaker Vincent Perazio in which he examines the work of these scientists investigating our plastic waste.

Some are undertaking research to see if plastic is making its way into the food chain, others are looking into the impact on marine life and the environment.

"It's not worth throwing away plastic bags. You should just season them well and eat them directly because they're going to end up back on your plate in one way or another." **Marine Scientist**

"Once there is so much plastic in the seas, there is nothing to eat for the filter feeders, for the fish, for the whales." **Oceanographer**

The program asks confronting questions about whether or not we need to change the way we deal with the plastics we throw away.

"It's not about not using plastic, it's about using them much more smartly. And what that, in my view, is going to take is rethinking the way we produce, use and dispose of plastics." **Professor of Marine Biology**

Oceans of Plastic, by French filmmaker Vincent Perazio and presented by Sarah Ferguson, went to air on Four Corners ABC Monday 27th February 2017 at 8.30pm EDT. It is on ABC iView.





Wild Pollinator Count

You can **join in** by watching any flowering plant for just ten minutes sometime in the week of **9 to 16 of April 2017**.

- You don't need to be an insect expert.
- You don't need fancy gear.
- You may be surprised by what you see!

Visit <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/> for more information.

Creating a pond or bog garden may encourage native frogs to visit your garden so visit our new web page....

Give a frog a home

<http://www.wildlife-rescue.org.au/give-a-frog-a-home.html>



This April WRSC will take part in Australia's First Wilderness Festival

WILDfest™ Southern Highlands

21 to 23 April 2017

This unforgettable and uniquely Australian wilderness experience is a celebration of nature through soul-stirring and authentic *WILD* activities. And as nature is unpredictable, exciting and untamed, we mix in the whimsical to craft those truly exceptional moments.

Take your seat under the stars for our paddock-to-plate *WILD* Native Feast designed and presented by celebrated chefs, mountain bike on virgin trails through micro climate rainforests to finish with refreshing hand-squeezed juices and scrumptious treats, hike through pristine bush to the top of the mountain to gaze over the escarpment from the comfort of your deck chair, raise your glass and take that unforgettable photo, explore the water ways in our custom-built canoes and take in the native fauna and flora while you sip on award-winning Highlands wines and savour native food canapés or why not opt in for our luxury remote glamping 3 Day package with all of this and more. Rejuvenating massage at the *WILD* bush spa anyone?

www.wildfest.com.au

Let the wild in and adventure begin

WILDfest™ proudly supports Wildlife Rescue™ South Coast Inc.

The logo for WILDfest, featuring the word "WILDfest" in a stylized, white font with a green outline. The "I" and "L" in "WILD" are connected. The background of the logo is a green silhouette of a map of Australia.

The Little Penguin

Penguins are flightless seabirds. The Little Penguin is the smallest of all penguins. Standing about 30 to 35 cm in height, it weighs approximately one kilogram when fully grown.

Its upper body and flippers are slate blue or blue-grey in colour, with the underside and throat being white. The Little Penguin's bill is black, its feet are pale pink, and its eyes are silvery-grey. The males of the species are slightly bigger than the females, and have a deeper bill and larger head.



*This Little Penguin featured in the 2014 WRSC calendar
Photographer Gavin Swan*

What do they sound like?

The Little Penguin makes a variety of noises for different situations. It has a short, sharp bark when at sea; it uses a variety of throbbing growls and hoarse whoops when attracting a mate; and if it is disturbed it lets out a sharp, snorting yelp.

Where do they live?

The Little Penguin is the only penguin species that breeds on the Australian mainland. Little Penguins are found along the southern coasts of Australia, from near Perth in Western Australia to around Coffs Harbour in northern NSW. They also occur in New Zealand.

Originally, little penguins were fairly common on the Australian mainland, but these days their colonies are generally restricted to offshore islands. Approximately 25,000 pairs nest on islands off the coast of NSW. The largest colonies are on:

- Montague Island
- Tollgate Island
- Brush Island.

While relatively common in the southern waters of Australia, the Little Penguin has shown declines in NSW, currently the only known mainland breeding colony is in a secluded cove in the Manly area of Sydney Harbour. This colony was listed as endangered in 1997 with an estimated 35 birds at Manly Point remaining at the time.

Threats

Major threats to Little Penguin populations include loss of or disturbance of suitable habitat, attacks from foxes and dogs, overfishing of their food source, and pollution from oil and rubbish.

Threats to the Sydney Harbour Little Penguins include dog, fox and cat attacks, disturbance at nest sites and boating incidents, fishing line entanglement and habitat loss. In 2009, 10 Little Penguins were killed by domestic dogs and possibly a fox in a period of six weeks.

Penguins return to the same location for nesting every year, and many of these sites have been overrun by housing or other infrastructure, or the land/vegetation has been changed, making the nesting site no longer viable for penguins. Regardless of disturbances to the area, penguins will still return to their original nesting site. This makes the penguins highly vulnerable. Other introduced animals also impact on penguin populations. Rabbits for example have changed island habitats until these are unsuitable for penguins, and predators, particularly dogs and foxes, kill many birds. For the Manly population, pet dogs are one of the major threats for the little penguins.

Pollution in our oceans is also a major cause of death and injury of little penguins. Oil pollution impacts on waterproofing of the penguin's feathers and penguins will often ingest or get caught in rubbish which they mistake for food. Plastic pollution is also detrimental to marine species such as sea turtles and marine birds. There are 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic trash in the world's oceans, and each year, 8 million tons of plastic are added to the count. That's equivalent to one municipal garbage truck pulling up to the beach and dumping its contents every minute. Science can help explain why seabirds such as penguins ingest plastic. It turns out that marine plastic debris emits the scent of a sulphurous compound that some seabirds have relied upon for thousands of years to tell them where to find food, according to a study from the University of California, Davis. This essentially tricks the birds into confusing marine plastic with food.

Overfishing (of fish like pilchards, whitebait and squid) and the use of gill nets are also a threat to the species.

Is there a star in your care?

Who is going to be the
2018 WRSC calendar cover star
and win \$100?
Photo competition
ends 15 March 2017

Wildlife Rescue South Coast
Calendar

Wildlife Rescue South Coast
Calendar

Terms and conditions of the 2018 WRSC Calendar Photography Competition

1. The winning photo will be featured on the front page of the 2018 Calendar and the photographer will be awarded a prize of \$100.00.
2. Photographs submitted must have been taken by the WRSC member and be of either wildlife in care or of wildlife that are native to the WRSC licensed area.
3. Images should be 1 to 5 MB jpegs and not digitally remastered
4. All photos must be submitted digitally to newsletter@wildlife-rescue.org.au.
5. Photos which have previously featured in WRSC calendars are not eligible to be resubmitted.
6. Competition closes at 7pm on Wednesday 15th March 2017.
7. The winner for the cover prize and the 12 other photos will be judged by members at the WRSC General Meeting on Wednesday 12th April 2017.
8. Each entrant agrees that the photo/s they have submitted become the property of WRSC and may be used further by WRSC to promote the group as required. This could include publications, education materials, fundraising, WRSC website, Facebook etc.
9. The photographer will be credited with the photograph at all times.
10. Members must ensure their entry does not infringe the intellectual property rights of any other person or entity.