MALUBILLAI WILDLIFE CARERS NETWORK INC.

Newsletter No: 44 **MOPOKE**

December 2014

Welcome to the summer and final edition of Mopoke for 2014, we hope you enjoy reading the stories and information we provide in the form of our newsletter, and if anyone feels they would like to contribute please feel free to send in articles which others would enjoy reading.

This past spring/busy season seems to have reached its peak and we now have much more manageable numbers of young to care for, prior to their eventual releases. Although we have not processed the bulk of our admission sheets and therefore accurate details on admissions are not available, we are still in a position to comment on the numbers and varieties of wildlife which has come into care this season. One of the most obvious departures in species this year seems to be the common little Singing Honeyeaters, whether this is a good or bad sign for wildlife remains to be seen. Normally I would hand rear or get into care up to 20 of these little birds a season, this year I have had 2. This spring has been perhaps one of the more 'normal' springs we have had for some years, with the weather being reasonably consistent in temperature and rainfall so perhaps that has had an impact on the numbers of these little birds needing care. The other options is that they are not breeding in the numbers that they normally would – due either to lack of suitable breeding sites or other predatory birds are breeding up in numbers and attacking the nests of these little birds. My guess would be that the balance between species is out of whack and therefore has impacted on these birds.

To take this a step further one only has to take a trip to our lovely Kings Park to see how some species of birds adapt and even excel in a suitable and very often man-made environment. The numbers of cheeky Kookaburras in that park seems to be ever increasing, along with the Wattle Birds. I am particularly fond of both of these birds but not quite so when I witness them terrorizing other less timid species. The other interesting observation at Kings Park is to watch the Black Pacific Ducks, these are normally notorious for their shyness and distrust of anything human but they have made the picnic areas their own and waddle around as they please taking all sorts of 'treats' from the humans they normally avoid at all costs, there is much to consider looking at this behaviour in our wildlife and before 'someone' decides that a culling of pests is required, perhaps a re-think by everyone who uses places like Kings Park would be much more beneficial.

I hope that you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year and 2015 will be fabulous for everyone.

Enjoy your families and give them all an extra hug this Christmas.

Heather

THE FIVE FREEDOMS

1. ***Freedom from hunger and thirst***: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.

2. ***Freedom from discomfort:*** by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

3. ***Freedom from pain, injury or disease***: by prevention through rapid diagnosis and treatment.

4. ***Freedom to express normal behaviour***: by providing sufficient space; proper facilities and company of the animals own kind.

5. ***Freedom from fear and distress***: by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

The above are the **FIVE FREEDOMS** which is a creed by which Wildlife Carers judge the care necessary for new patients. It was considered at our last meeting it was worthy of inclusion in the newsletter as a reminder to existing members and a judgment criteria for pending members or the public who may find an animal in distress.

I have two recipes for sharing in this edition of the Mopoke – one for human consumption and one for our birds. (Not sure if they can be shared)

Recipe- ***Mexican guacamole***

INGREDIENTS

2 ripe avocadoes

100gm of cream cheese

¼ cup of sour cream

1 tomato finely chopped

2 stalks of spring onion finely chopped

2 -3 teaspoons of chopped pickled jalapeno chilies

3-4 stalks of chopped fresh coriander

Mix all the soft ingredients together with some lemon juice. Leave the avocado stones with the flesh – this will prevent the avocadoes from going brown. Add the chopped tomato, coriander and spring onion.
Add salt and pepper to taste. Chill.

This dip was presented at the beautiful afternoon tea put on by Michelle Rosano as a thank you to our carers, and considered delicious enough to share.

2

RECIPE FOR LORIKEET FOOD

Here is a great recipe for lorikeet dry food that you can male up in large quantities quiet cheaply. My lorikeets and some of my friend's lorikeets thrive on it.

I have modified it over the years from other recipes I have been given. You need a grinder or blender capable of grinding rice. The dextrose can be purchased from Brewcraft or other brewing supply shops at a very reasonable cost. The egg and biscuit and the multivit powder is from any pet shop and the other ingredients are from any supermarket. You can multiply the quantities to make huge amounts as it keeps very well.

At times I have also ground down arrowroot and breakfast biscuits when out of egg and biscuit mix.

Just be sure to mix everything well.

4 x cups of finely ground rice

2 x cups of egg and biscuit mix

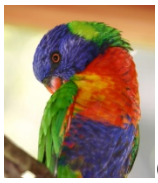
2 cups of vitabrits or similar

1 cup dextrose

¼ to ½ cup of raw sugar

1tsp multivit

That's it – happy eating to all our Lorikeets


Claudia Andria

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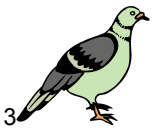
Doogle the Bugal by Sharron Burns

Early last January I had a phone call from Robyn of Mundaring Garden Centre, she had found two very young Bronze wing Pigeons tangled up in thick undergrowth in her garden, I picked them up and all was fine for a few days. However the little girl died after three days probably from being injured in the fall from her nest. The little boy grew stronger and bigger by the day, he was very sooky and I had a hard time weaning him onto seed.

He always called and danced around every time he saw us. When he was finally released he wouldn't go and was always on the back step bowing and calling, he would let us pick him up and pat him. One day there was a bird on the lawn; he was very quiet and looked like he'd been beaten up so I put him back in the cage for a week. He was still quiet and I wasn't sure if it was Doogle until I released him again and he regained his confidence and started cooing and dancing again, I knew for sure it was Doogle then. We haven't seen him for a long time now and hope he has found himself a mate .Bronze wings are one of my favourite birds.



PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES

EVENT	DATE	OTHER INFORMATION	VENUE
General Meeting	17th January 1.00pm	All welcome	22 Garland St Vic.Park
General Meeting	21st February 1.00pm	All welcome	22 Garland St Vic Park
General Meeting	21st March 1.00pm	All welcome	22 Garland St. Vic Park

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FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP OR MAKE A DONATION

Membership Application Form:

Surname… …….. First Name……

Address…..……

…… Post Code…….

Telephone: Home…… Mobile……. Email…….

Membership Costs: $20.00 single $30.00 Family $15.00 Pensioner/Student/concession; Donation $……
Please make cheques/money orders payable to Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network.
I am interested in becoming an active voluntary member YES/NO (please circle), If yes please request and complete a volunteer application for. **Direct Credit: BSB: 016 263 A/c No: 109493371 ANZ A/c name: Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network Inc.**
Please send membership application form to: Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network Inc. PO Box 595 Victoria Park WA 6979

Just Sharing as send to Malubillai members:-

Subject: SEASONS GREETINGS

Dear friends and colleagues of the Vet Department, Perth Zoo,
We would like to thank you all for your kind assistance during the past year. We wish you and your loved ones a very merry and safe festive season and a happy new year.

Looking forward to working with you all again in 2015.

Kind regards from all the staff at the Vet Department

4

KOOKABURRA

We don't get a lot of Kookaburras coming into care, so you can imagine my surprise when I had a call from one of the vets, to pick up a baby kookaburra.

The baby was not quite what I was expecting. It was newly hatched and possibly only a day old, naked as the day a human is born. But it had a ferocious appetite.

Very quickly it rose from eating small mice to adult mice and chicks. At one stage its underneath was so smooth and shiny, like a balloon, it looked like it could pop anytime. But that didn't stop it from eating.

It opened its eyes at about 3 weeks, and began to get its pin feathers, it was evident that this species are a rather heavy bird and quite large, and this bub had so much growing to do, its huge consumption was necessary. But its noise was incessant regardless of whether it was hungry or had been fed.

Eventually it was ready to begin picking up, and I would cut the food into large bite size pieces, it would clean its plate within seconds, however, being able to pick up its own food obviously gave it some sort of satisfaction, probably being in control of when it wanted to eat, and after a few days the noise stopped.

As it grew large and the feathering developed it began to look beautiful and more like a kookaburra each day. It was trying so hard to get its laugh going, but still a bit young and under-developed.

Finally it was fully fledged, although the tail still had some growing to do, but it was pacing the cage, which told me, it was time for it to leave the nest. It has now gone to Jacqui for Rehabilitation and soft release. It is in with 3 other adult kookaburras, and if past experiences with this species is anything to go by, it will be well looked after and nurtured by these adults. I have included several photos, to show the progress of this special creature.

1or 2 days old

3 weeks old

6 weeks old

Woylies back from the brink?

If someone had asked me years ago what a Woylie was I would replied with “some kind of mythical creature?

But these days my answer is somewhat different. A few years back I had the opportunity to monitor and feed both Woylies and Quendas at Whiteman Park’s woodland reserve, a 50 hectare nature sanctuary that has been fully fenced to keep out feral animals.

A Woylie also known as a brush tailed Bettong, is a small nocturnal rat-like kangaroo only found in south west WA, but was believed to range from arid inland WA to coastal regions of eastern Australia. In 1996 they were removed from the endangered species list as their numbers were thriving, however, since 2001 they have suffered huge declines in populations ranging between 70-90% losses. In 2007, the Woylie was placed back on the IUCN endangered species list, and remains listed as critically endangered.

It is not clear as to why the Woylie experienced such as heavy decline in the last ten years, but many factors could have aided in the number reductions. Predation by foxes and feral cats is a major concern for wild populations, and this has been evident lately at Perup Nature reserve. 40 Woylies were released in 2010 and re-trapped the following March. Each Woylie had survived and were healthy, with every female carrying a baby in its pouch. Outside the sanctuary things were the complete opposite, with only 3% of traps containing a Woylie. Disease is also another factor being considered, and it is most likely related to low genetic diversity.

Many steps are being taken to boost Woylie populations in captive breeding programs such as that at Whiteman Park, but little is being done in wild populations due to predation and disease. Will we ever have wild populations thriving again or will we be reduced to only seeing a Woylie in captivity?

If you haven’t had a chance to see a Woylie yet I recommend heading along to a woodland reserve night walk at Whiteman Park, held every Friday evening or visit Perth Zoo where they are on display in the nocturnal house.

Jen O’Malley

Woylie

PO BOX 595 VICTORIA PARK 6979 22 GARLAND STREET, VICTORIA PARK 6100

MOBILE: 0412 609 104