MALUBILLAI WILDLIFE CARERS NETWORK INC.

ABN 54 155 708 894

Newsletter No: 41 **March 2014**

MOPOKE

Welcome from all at Malubillai and we all trust that you enjoyed your Xmas and New Year, although it seems ages ago but as this is our first Mopoke for 2014 it seems appropriate to acknowledge that important part of the year. As to be expected at this time of the year the caring of wildlife has decreased, certainly for the hand rearing of baby birds, although we still need to care for some of the older birds who for whatever reason need care, often these birds are injured and the outcome is not always the way we would like it to be but they received the best of treatment and attention. The girls who care for marsupials always seem to have some babies which need around the clock feeding and intense care for many months which keeps them very busy.

As I have mentioned many times before the most rewarding aspect of home caring our native wildlife is their eventual release regardless of the species it is a joy to watch these hand reared creatures finally enjoy their freedom, it doesn't matter if it's a batch of ducklings finally getting into the water and enjoying removing the smell of us humans from their feathers or hatchling Swallows which are ready to soar high above, the skill of just flying is born in these birds and to watch them using that incredible skill is humbling, I am always so grateful that I have been a tiny part of their lives albeit for a short time but it's a time that without our intervention these beautiful creatures just would not be here.

A big part of caring for wildlife is the paperwork and the recording of all admissions. As mentioned in other newsletters we have an updated data base and although we have not completed all our admissions for 2013/14 a good many of these have been done. Since we started recording our admissions on a data base we have surpassed 10,000 admissions.

The outcomes for these admissions read as follows – (have rounded the percentages either up or down for easier reading) Released 35% , Passed on for final rehab/release 21% (these occur mainly with Magpies as the process of grouping them and finally releasing is quite long and it's just not practical to keep each bird's info separate), the other main outcome is 'Died' and that is 25%, other Outcome make up the rest of the percentages and these include Homed (non releasable – as in Rainbow lorikeets), Currently still in care, Euthanised, etc. If you combine the first two outcomes the percentage is 56% which in the big scheme of things is pretty healthy.

Whiteman Park is holding its annual Envirofest on 30th March 2014, this is an interesting day with so much to see, and if you have some free time it is well worth a visit. Times are 10.00- 4.00pm.

Finally if any of our readers would like to contribute to the content of Mopoke we are always looking for interesting stories about wildlife, please contact Ronda at johnandronda@bigpond.com and she would be delighted to include your articles in future Mopokes.

Heather Seear
President – Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network Inc

HUMOUROUS TEXT: This is a true story.

I have the Malubillai mobile at the moment, and sometimes you have some quite funny phone calls, along with some that are not so funny, and even some that are extremely annoying.

Opened the phone to the following text:-

Yay lunch this sat 4th Jan. I am cooking a chicken with a beer can up it's bum. You bring something equally silly yet delicious….or not and don't forget the bottle and see you after 1pm at ……..(address)……Yay lizz .

I texted back to say that she had the wrong number
Next text: - Are you Gerry?
Me:- No.
Next text:- Oops!!!!

On the 5th January: I opened up a repeat of the first text. Obviously Lizz thought that she had made a mistake with entering the number first time around. I didn't respond to that as the party was over.

Anyway; to continue. On 28th Jan. in dropped another text.

Lunch sat 1 Feb! Mince is the theme – herbs, chickpeas, chicken, lamb, Go your hardest! See you mincing down the garden path after 1 pm. Yay lizz

Me:- You still have the wrong number. Did Gerry come to your last party?
Reply: - Sorry! And no he didn't turn up ….. Now I know why. Thanks for letting me know☺
Bit of fun and the lighter side of manning the phone! Jan McPheat

LIST OF DATES TO REMEMBER

March 15th	Meeting 1pm	Office	Garland Street
April 6th	Sausage Sizzle	Bunning's	Hillary's
April 14th	Envirofest	Whiteman Park 10am – 3pm	Whiteman Park
April 12th	**Meeting 1pm**	**Office**	**Garland Street**
May 4th	Sausage Sizzle	Bunning's	Hillary's
May 17th	Meeting 1pm	Office	Garland Street
May 26th – Start	Conference	Hotel Grand Chancellor	Hobart Tas.
May 30th - finish	Conference	Hotel Grand Chancellor	Hobart Tas.
June 21st	Meeting 1pm	Office	Garland Street

KOOKY

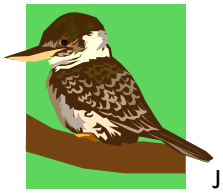
I picked up a young Kookaburra from a vet just before Christmas last year. He was healthy, and had probably just tried his wings too early. Their nests are pretty high up (who knew where it was anyway) he was taken to a vet and so on to me. I hadn't had the enormous pleasure of looking after a Kookaburra before and of course fell in love. His cute stubby little tail and his efforts at laughing had me feeling good inside every day.

Hard to feed at first, and I am not greatly fond of cutting mice in half!!! However, it wasn't many days before he realised that he could eat a whole mouse and that it came on the end of looooooong tweezers.

He was soon getting pretty fidgety in the parrot cage, and I did feel sorry for him, so decided to try him in my aviary, which is the size of the carport. I have canaries and finches mainly, and thought I would see how he went with the little birds, if he didn't pick on them – he could stay.
That worked a treat, and he was getting in some flight practice. He would fly up one end, and all the other birds would flock to the other end, and so it went on, but there were no problems.

I had fed him on this particular morning and then driven up to the local park to walk my little dog, on getting out of the car on our return, he was making his little chuckle noise like he made, when he had a mouse in his beak. He had caught his own mouse in the aviary, (there are always some pinching seed). I must have spent the next 10 minutes telling him what a clever Kooky he was. Like watching your children take there first steps – honestly!

Now he was ready to go out to Jacqui Smith to learn how to be a Kookaburra,I was delighted to see that he would be with a couple of other Kookies. I had him for about 5 weeks, and loved every minute of his time with me. He learned to laugh properly; I loved waking up and hearing him early in the morning. Fortunately so did my neighbours. Hope he has a long and lovely life.



Jan McPheat

There's something contagious about a Kookaburra's laugh. The other morning the stillness was shattered by the cackling of two of these bold birds in the park next door. I went outside and sure enough, perched on top of the flood lights of the oval next door, proudly they sat for all to see and I found myself smiling and feeling happy. Oh, I know, they're foreigners, shouldn't be here... but as far as I'm concerned, I wouldn't have it any other way. They dot the "i" and cross the "t" in the word Australia so Laugh Kookaburra Laugh and continue to brighten up our days**!** **Jackie B**

THANK YOU: - Drovers Pet City, they are great supporters of our organisation.

MISTY AND CLEO

Misty was found clinging to her dead mother – a probable victim of poisoning. This beautiful baby Brush tailed Possum was taken to the Vet dept. at the Zoo, and I was lucky enough to get the call to take her into care.

Although timid, she was gentle and inquisitive, and with much advice from the far more experienced Lyn Manuel, she thrived. She was my baby for the next 6 weeks.

However she had out-grown her accommodation, and I knew it was time to move her on. Especially after she escaped two nights in a row from her Velcro bottomed collapsible cage!!! It was a trifle disconcerting to come into the spare room, and find her cage empty. Fortunately she was only tucked up behind a couch and was easily coaxed out with a few mealworms – her favourite treat.

So she started the next phase of her rehab. Before release, with Karen Ducat on her wonderful farm in Northam.

I was delighted therefore to get a call from the Zoo just over a week later, with another baby Brush tailed Possum. *Enter Cleo.* She was found several days after some tree lopping, so we presumed that a frightened Mum had either abandoned or lost her.

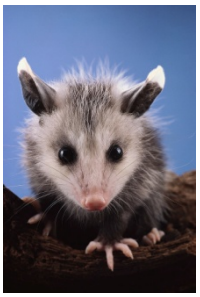
I expected her to be the same as Misty. **Wrong!!!!** Delightful as she was, she had a completely different personality. Timid – yes, inquisitive – yes, gentle – **no!** Quite feisty was this little lady, so I needed to watch the fingers when coaxing her to try formula.

Being a little older than Misty when she was found, she was independent sooner and was with me for only about 4 weeks before going up to Northam and into Karen's' care.

Just to let me know who was boss: - on the morning she was to go, she escaped from the same cage as Misty before her and not so easily found. I searched the room without finding her, and then noticed that the double built in robe had the door slightly ajar, you guessed it!! As this cupboard was packed from bottom to top, with years of craft gear, sewing projects, spare pillows, rugs, etc it took some time to clear, and almost to the last items before little Cleo shot out of her hiding spot. The room was a total tip, and wasn't back to how it should be for several days.

Karen tells me that both babies have been successfully released now, Cleo just a couple of weeks ago, and Misty some time before.

We hope that they will enjoy a long and happy life on a beautiful farm in Northam.



Jan McPheat

Life at Waterfall Cottages in Margaret River – Heather

Lucky for us, my husband and I have good friends who own and manage the above, we go down for a weekend when we can and was recently enticed to spend another lovely weekend in the company of Sue and Julian and assorted wildlife.

Julian is very keen on assisting the varied wildlife which habitat the lovely areas surrounding the house and cottages and over the years these have become quite trusting of some human contact. To this end there is some food left out for the variety of wildlife and it is a joy to watch the Magpies, Twenty Eights, Pink and Greys, Bronze winged Pigeons, various Wrens all enjoying a tasty treat, a recent addition to the household is 3 hand reared Chooks, these are such characters and seem to rule the roost at feeding time, calling the bluff of all, even the Magpies. The local population of Western Grey Kangaroos also enjoy the snacks, although they are a lot more wary than the birds when humans are around. One evening sitting around watching the antics of the above I noticed one of the kangaroos wanting to get in won the action but just a little unsure of the etiquette involved. I took a quick 'phone photo' and although not exactly National Geographic quality I thought you would get the general idea.

There is plenty to be said of a weekend away from the usual weekend chores and the setting and wildlife at Waterfall Cottages is fairly unique and very relaxing.

Sorrento Seal

It never ceases to amaze me how Nature brings people together. The whole place was abuzz with excitement when the Sorrento Seal chose to bask on our local beaches for whatever reason. At five thirty in the morning there were hundreds of people on the beach marveling at this giant of the deep. Perhaps a welcome escape from the daily drudgery of life!! So, thank you Mr. Seal for your visit and Please, do not be tempted by any bait hanging off drum lines.....**Jackie**

Welcome to our newest members:

Sam Norgard Jeanette Avins Kathryn Neville Megan Hards

Thanks girls we always welcome new and enthusiastic members.

SPRITE

I had a call a few months ago from a lovely lady about a joey she had in her care. Her son had been out shooting with his friends and had shot a female with a little joey in her pouch. He took her home and reared her for three months before he moved into a unit and did not have the room anymore to her care for her. His mum kindly offered to have her and named her Sprite. Although her diet was not ideal she thrived and was soon running all over the large semi rural property. The lady was concerned that as Sprite got bigger she would be able to jump the fence and could get killed on the road.
She rang a couple of organisations before trying Malubillai.

Sue and I went out to meet Sprite and her foster mum with a view to arranging relocation. Imagine our surprise when upon arrival we were met at the gate by two barking dogs and Sprite. You see Sprite thinks she is a dog, she slept with the dogs on their bed and ran around the yard with them and they were one big happy family.

After many conversations we all thought it best to relocate her to a place where she could get some contact with joeys her own size but still have her own space if she felt threatened. We had to wait for cooler weather and everyone involved being free for the day. We picked Natalie and Grant's as an ideal place for her to go as they have an amazing yard, and a couple of young joeys, they also have the patience and commitment to see this through. We could not have asked for the move to go better than it did. The weather was mild and Sprite was really calm. We did not need to sedate her as she was happy to jump into a large bag and she slept the whole trip. Natalie and Grant were waiting at the other end and we put her inside where she will spend the first couple of days. She can see the other joeys and was quite happy in the large open area of the house.

She was in beautiful condition with thick healthy coat and a beautiful personality. Her Mum made a very hard decision to give her up but she came with us and was happy at the end of the day that it had been the right thing to do and that Sprite was in Kangaroo paradise. Thanks to all that were involved. I am sure that with some work Sprite will be moved to Jurien with the other joeys in a few weeks time.

Lyn Manuel

THANK YOU

Malubillai is again fundraising through the Bunning's Sausage Sizzles. We have two dates 6th April and 4th May. These will be at Bunning's Whitfords Store, situated in Hillarys. If you are over that way, please call in and buy a Sausage Sizzle and say Hello, we would love to see you.

MALUBILLAI WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK BUNNINGS, FOR MAKING THIS FUNDRAISING AVAILABLE.