MALUBILLAI WILDLIFE CARERS NETWORK INC.

ABN 54 155 708 894

Newsletter No: 43 **September 2014**

MOPOKE

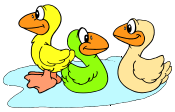
A sunny welcome to our spring edition of Mopoke, the newsletter for Malubillai, after the cold nights and rainy days it is lovely to welcome springtime to Western Australia. Our local flora, always a show stopper, is just spectacular at this time of year.

Recently I and several other Malubillai carers made the trip to Kellerberrin to visit Kathy and although at that time the wildflowers were only just starting to flower, edges of the road were starting to burst into colour as these hardy plants once again showed their beauty. On Kathy's property we did some tree and native flora planting, so hopefully within the next few years there will be a little bit more shade in Kellerberrin.
Kathy and family have settled in well to their new lifestyle and seem very happy to be living the rural lifestyle, and the cows, goats, sheep and new puppy, which are all now part of the extended family, are very happy with the arrangement!

I know I have mentioned this in previous newsletters, but in case you had forgotten, the trip along the coastal road to Jurian Bay is stunning at any time but during spring it takes your breath away, it is an easy drive and the return trip can be comfortably done in a day. There is some wildlife to be seen and on my last trip, mom Emu was proudly showing off her 2 beautiful chicks, it was a lovely sight.

With the advent of springtime, we are currently caring for ducklings, of several varieties, marsupials both joeys and possums, some early baby wattlebirds and water birds, to mention a few and by October, no doubt, we will all be involved in intensive caring of the many other varieties of which find themselves in need of some help.

Heather Seear
President



Form and Bank account details for payment of membership etc

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

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PLEASE MAKE NOTE: UP AND COMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	OTHER INFORMATION	VENUE
General Meeting	Saturday 20th September 2014	All welcome	22 Garland Street Victoria Park
General Meeting	Saturday 18th October 2014	All welcome	22 Garland Street Victoria Park
General Meeting	Saturday 15th November 2014	All welcome	22 Garland Street Victoria Park
SAUSAGE SIZZLE	**Saturday 22nd November 2014**	**Volunteers welcome please come along and support us**	**BUNNINGS CANNINGTON**

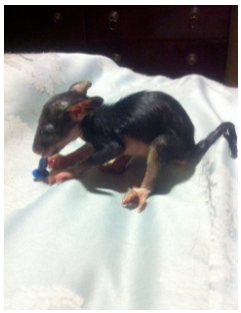
JAN'S BABY

Hi all,

He is probably about 2 months old, and it is hard to believe that he will end up looking as cute as my previous gorgeous baby brushtail possums. Found at the Perth Zoo, in the pouch of his dead mother, I am already in love with him. He is doing so well. The first photo I had to take after I had given him his 4.30 am feed. (Yes - I am getting up twice during the night, setting the alarm!!! - not even my kids did that to me!) He had the feeding teat clenched in his teeth, and wouldn't let go. He still has his eyes closed, but is very strong for such a little guy, and is all long limbs and tail, which he will wind around my finger, and hang on for dear life when I am trying to get him back into his pouch after his feed.

He has since been christened Hilary after the climber of Mt. Everest, due to his own climbing talent, and is now around four months and thriving, due to all the love and attention from his new mum and the visitors he receives

Lucky me Jan McPheat – Hilary is now around six months and thriving, he is still Jan's pride and joy.



JET THE BANDICOOT.

At 11.00 pm on New Year's Eve, we got a call from a distressed airport worker. They had run over a mother bandicoot and the mother and one of the joeys had died. They wanted to know what to do with the surviving joey. We went and picked up the joey, set it up in a hotbox in a beanie for the night and gave it some Divetelac.

The next day Lyn Manuel came around with some Biolac milk powder, syringes and tips, beanie liners and a cuddly toy for it to snuggle up to. She showed us how to mix up the Biolac and syringe it into the Joey's mouth. We learnt how much to feed it and how often and how to toilet the joey. When Lyn examined the little joey she discovered it was a boy, so we named him Jet as he was found at the airport. She also found he had an injury to his hind leg and his tail had been damaged, so we arranged that she would come the next day and take him to the vet to get the leg checked out. We found out that he is a Southern Brown Bandicoot, otherwise known as a Quenda.

A few days later he was back from the vet and the wound was healing well. We went and picked him up from Lyn. She showed us how to make up the night slurry and advised us to add mashed banana on the side.

When he came to us he only weighed 60g, now five weeks later he weighs over 290g and has grown so much he no longer fits in the palm of our hand. At first we were only syringe feeding him his food and leaving the slurry out in a dish at night. Now he has slurries every meal with chopped fruit, Maggie mince meatballs and mealworms on the side. He is now in a hutch and loves running around, climbing on the logs and scratching around in the litter tray. He can jump quite high so we have to be careful when we open the hutch that he doesn't jump out.

It has been a very enjoyable experience raising the little quenda. It has been nice to have a fur-baby for a change. We could not have done this without Lyn's help and advice about what to do and when.

Footnote:
Jet moved into an aviary in March where he loved to run around, climb the wire, hide in a log and bury in the leaves. We had to wait until the weather cooled down before we could release him into the wild. He was finally released at the beginning of May weighing 800g. Although we miss the little fur ball, we know he will be happy in the wild. He is with other bandicoots so he won't be lonely.
John and Rochelle Serra

INFORMATION TO HELP IDENTIFY A TAWNY FROG MOUTH

Tawny Frogmouth (Podargus Strigoides)

Description

Broad grey bill-edged by grey plumes Gape, eye yellow.

Flat crown; Pale grey eyebrows, grey to reddish -brown above with grey patches, streaked black

Underparts paler; Tail short, ungraduated

Males and Females look alike and are 35—50cm long.

Distribution

Common mainly in woodlands throughout Australia except in arid interior

Habits

Not related to owls but nightjars. While owls fly around at night hunting food Tawny Frogmouths generally remain on a low perch and wait for food to come to them.

Reproduction

They mate for life. Female usually lays 2 eggs which are not laid together but sometimes 3to4 days apart. They are like small chicken eggs in appearance. They are lustrous white and elliptical. Both parents take turns in sitting on the eggs, changing over without any fuss and exposing the eggs for only a few seconds. Incubation is usually between 27 to 31 days.

Diet

They feed on rats, mice, beetles, moths, frogs and other small pray which they catch in their large, gaping frog-like yellow mouth

References

Field guide to Birds or Australia
Tawny Frogmouths by Gisella Kaplan
Docent training notes

THE MUDLARK IN THE PLAYGROUND

One morning we received a call from a friend from Little Athletics who runs a mobile café in the car park of Riverside Gardens in Bayswater. A bird was caught in the ropes of the shade sail covering the playground and was hanging upside down by its leg. It had been there since the day before with its parents hovering around and feeding it.

We put the extension ladder on the van and drove to the playground. John put the ladder against a pole and climbed up while I steadied the ladder. There was a small group of very concerned onlookers and a man helped me steady the ladder. It was quite windy and the bird's leg was tightly caught in the rope, so it took quite a while to get the bird free. John had to cut away the rope around its leg to free it.

When it was freed we packed up and took the bird home. On examination it did not have any breaks to the leg. We gave it cage rest, food and water and a few days later it was able to be released back to the playground. We were so happy it was not seriously hurt and was able to be released. It was a coincidence that it was my friend who rang as she did not know that we are wild life carers.

John and Rochelle Serra

My Malubillai Journey- and some rambling…

Hi, my name is Samantha Norgard. I'm a Year 1/2 teacher at the West Coast Language Development Centre, Padbury Campus. We teach children from Kindy to Year 2 who have a Specific Language Impairment. Children with a SLI have normal cognitive (intelligence) function, but have difficulties processing language. This includes expressive language, such as vocabulary and the ability to express oneself, to receptive language, which is the comprehension, or understanding of what is asked or required. As a teacher of 5, 6, and 7 year olds I couldn't ask for a more interesting and varied work day. At times though I have to thank the God of the grapes!

Ever since I was a young tacker I always had a passion for animals and the outdoors. I was lucky enough to spend my childhood years on rural and semi-rural properties in Perth where my sister and I spent many happy hours hand painting our horses with mulberry juice, helping hand- shear Mum's pet sheep, racing our Guinea pigs, collecting eggs whilst trying to avoid the cranky rooster (I still have the scars from his awesome spurs!), and enjoying all the love from our regular cats and dogs. Actually there was an interesting Christmas in the 80s when my sister's pet rat Enzo escaped and ended up living in the Christmas tree (we used real ones in those days). He'd always had a bit of a biting habit so the tree didn't end up getting decorated much that year.

Over my teaching career I have taken every opportunity to go above and beyond our curriculum to teach my students about being responsible for their environment. And this is where Malubillai came in to my life. Our playground is lucky enough to be in a Tuart tree grove. Every morning when I take the children out for morning fitness I ask them to close their eyes and tell me what they hear. Mostly I get 'car' but sometimes I get 'wind', 'birds' etc. It's not often we close our eyes and stop to just listen.
We usually have families of pink and greys, magies, 28s, and the rainbows that live around there.

During one recess about three years ago I wasn't on duty but a student came running up asking for Miss Norgard. A blue tongue had been found; nearly got stepped on by rampaging kids. I'd been the go-to person for relocating bobtails (with no knowledge apart from common sense) and I had my box and scooped up Bluey but his eyes were all gummy and shut. I knew this didn't look normal so I asked my Deputy to take it to the nearest vet as I had to go back into class.

Sometime later a lovely lady called Lyn Robson rang and asked if we were ready to release it back where it came from. Lyn came and not only brought the bobtail back, but gave the children a really informative lesson on bobtails. The children were even able to gently touch it which was a huge bonus for them. It was also informative for me as I didn't know they mated for life. The bobtail had eaten a red balloon (as well as having the flu!). They love red things like strawberries etc. That was a really good teaching point for me: bobtails love red things; lots of other animals eat other colours too!

Long story short- Every year I have a class of year 13x Year 1/2 students. As their teacher, I'm lucky enough to have them for some of the most important, formative years of their lives. Every fortnight I take the children on a rubbish pickup around the school, and we do it because we're not only proud of our environment, but because we have to take care of those creatures living in our environment. I get quite cross when I hear of schools using rubbish pick up, or 'scab duty' as part of their punishment system. Research has shown that using this as a punitive measure breeds resentment of picking up rubbish. Greg and I are very outdoorsy people and every time we go fishing, kayaking, hiking or 4WDing we always come back with a bag load of other people's discarded crap. I wonder if those people with such a blatant disregard for their environment were made to undertake 'scab duty' in their formal schooling years…

But- it makes my heart sing when I see children in my class running up to me in the playground at recess or lunch with a piece of rubbish in their hand, declaring they've just saved an animal (from a horrible plastic death). I just hope that positive and proactive attitude prevails throughout their lives.

I have since joined Malubillai, early 2014. I feel like I've joined a family. For anyone thinking of becoming a wildlife carer, the support and information is amazing. We've had a Willie Wagtail with a gammy foot who has decided to stick around after release. He's able to catch his own food but when he comes in for his daily rations our smiles are from ear to ear. What a personality! Thank you Malubillai , thank you for the information that will filter down through me, hopefully and respectfully, to our next generation.

Samantha

THE STORY OF ECHO A BLACK GLOVE WALLABY – WESTERN BRUSH TAIL WALLABY

Four years ago, I received a call from Native Arc, they had a wallaby joey that only weighed five hundred grams and asked if I would care for it. This was agreed and we quickly got a warm pouch ready
When I arrived at Native Arc, there he was the sweetest little thing I had ever seen; he was very small and very frightened. I bundled him up into his new warm pouch and cuddled him close.

Dean told me his history; A gentleman from Manjimup had found the Joey in its dead mother pouch.
After driving by for a few days, he decided to move the body to the side of the road, noticed movement in her pouch and heard a muffled whimper. He quickly felt the pouch and was astounded to have two big black eyes looking up at him. He felt that it was his responsibility to help the little joey, he rang his wife told her what he had found and said he was driving to Murdoch to get the joey help. Luckily he had a blanket on the back seat. He wrapped the joey in the blanket and made his way to Perth.

CARE

I had never cared for a wallaby before, had only reared kangaroos, so I decided to ring Lyn Manuel, as she was my mentor. Lyn advised me on his care and said that I needed to know what species he was and that I was in luck, Marg Larner an expert on kangaroos and wallabies was giving a talk at Malubillai and would be able to identify the baby.
He was identified as a Western Brush Tail Wallaby, and was quite rare.
Marg advised me that Perth zoo was looking for black glove wallabies (common name) for a captive breeding program, as not much was known about them it was arranged for me to speak with Arthur who was the head of the marsupials at the zoo. Arthur said that he would love to have Echo once he reached two kilos, and that he would be a wonderful ambassador

ECHO

Echo grew quickly, he loved being in my back yard with six kangaroo joeys, he was very confident and bossy
He loved white roses and eating the hibiscus flowers that grew in the garden. He had a very sweet nature and loved his cuddles. The months passed and it was time for Echo to go into quarantine at the zoo, for a month, before going into his new enclosure. It was heartbreaking to surrender him as I loved him dearly, but I knew in my heart that he would be safe for the rest of his life and that he would have the best care that any animal could receive. He became a favorite of the keepers because of his loving nature, Belinda the zoo keeper with the marsupials said that if the keepers were having a bad day they would go and sit with Echo as he would snuggle up to them on their lap and make them feel better. Echo was kept in a beautiful enclosure at the back of the zoo;
The zoo keepers understood that I needed to visit Echo regularly,

Echo seemed happy as he had a little quokka as a roommate. However what Echo needed was a female to breed with .There is a breeding pair of black glove wallabies at the zoo, however they have only produced two male joeys.

Belinda contacted me August 2014, saying that the female had a very young joey in pouch and fingers were crossed that the joey would be a female, so that Echo would have a mate. Belinda said that Echo had been a great friend, and that they had put the word out to local wildlife carer groups to see if there are any female Western Brush Tail wallabies available to house at the zoo, for breeding purposes and to showcase to the public. Belinda said that even locals knew very little of them, but were impressed by their beauty, and it gives the keepers the opportunity to educate their visitors on the importance to slow down when driving near bushland and to check road kill for any signs of life.

Shane Williams.

QUOKKA ROOM MATE

ECHO