MALUBILLAI WILDLIFE CARERS NETWORK INC.

ABN 54 155 708 894

Newsletter No: 42 **MOPOKE**

June 2015

Welcome to our winter 2014 edition of Mopoke, the newsletter of Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network we trust you are all enjoying this mild and thankfully wetter time of the year.

As we, or should be, aware our seasons have changed, with longer hotter summers and drier winters, what was once accepted as normal average rainfall now seems a thing of the past and I think most people now days hope we can just get at least close to average rainfalls and see less of that hot sun. Our wildlife must be confused as to when to start thinking about nesting times as prior to the recent rains we had seen Ravens preparing for nesting, very intent on looking for and building nests to house their young. When you care for wildlife you do become very aware of the seasons, partly due to mentally preparing yourself for the next busy season but also you do get to know which birds start off the season first and what follows them. We know that when the Ravens start, it's not long to go until ducklings start arriving and needing care. No matter how cute these tiny babies are, they do have a down side as the constant cleaning of bedding and enclosures is hard work, not to mention the huge amount of food a clutch of ducklings can eat their way thru in a day.

We hope that the recent rains, along with the cold days and nights have helped the Ravens have a re-think on these activities and wait a bit longer to build those nests!! Another wonderful aspect of winter is that it's flowering time for much of our native flora. In my garden I have a row of a type of Gravillia down the driveway, these flower profusely at the start of winter and last for some months and is a haven for all sorts of tiny honeyeaters, as these plants are almost small trees and have reached our window it is such a pleasure watching the different birds darting around and feeding on the nectar, an added bonus is that the windows are tinted so I can watch these birds without them realising.

The 2014 Australian Wildlife Rehabilitators Conference which was held in Hobart, Tasmania this year has concluded. It was a wonderful conference, with so many interesting speakers and topics. It was the first time I have attended and it was a most enjoyable experience. Tasmania is a fantastic place to visit with a huge variety of wildlife to see. A trip to the Tasmanian Devil Conservation Centre is just one of the many interesting excursions that can be done from Hobart. It is wonderful to see just how much effort is being done to save these wonderful creatures from the facial tumours which are threatening to make this species extinct. I don't think there would be one Tasmanian that would want that to happen and as a result of the dedication and research into this problem we should all remain optimistic that they will survive**.**

Great Work Tasmania

Heather Seear – President Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network Inc.

PARRY BEACH WA

My wife Glenys and I have just returned from a trip down south of our beautiful coast and I thought a short report would be a good thing for Mopoke:-

We camped at Parry Beach a small local campground/ Caravan Park run by volunteers for the Shire of Denmark. We have been many times before to this camping ground. It has a salmon fishing village wedged between the campground and the ocean. If you are fortunate as we were, you can observe and even participate in the capture by net of the wild salmon, fairly common in the summer months. The schools are spotted from the high sand hills by a lookout; he/she may spend hours gazing at miles of empty seascape, if the alarm is activated the crew spring into action. A high speed boat drops a net around the fish and a huge tug of war then eschews until the fish are gathered on the beach and boxed for processing.

The surrounding countryside is usually lush and green and supports many types of birds. This year it was different, the bush is very dry with no green bushes, the local inlet, which floods in winter, is now reduced to about a quarter of its normal size. This has affected the seabird population. The fairy terns have not nested on the open sand as they usually do, although this may still occur as we saw a nice flock circling on the day we departed. Our southwest is under siege at present we need a long wet to keep our Karri trees alive and our animals thriving. It is a sad thing to see the bush so badly affected and I hope Mother Nature will smile on our bush again and restore the balance

Graeme Daw.

THANK YOU from Lyn Robson

Without volunteers offering to help at the Bunning's Sausage Sizzles, we would not be able to undertake this important fundraising event, which is Mallubillai's main fundraising each year.
I would like to thank all those listed below for offering their time to help, as well as looking after the creatures.
Heather Seear, Sue Rose, Ronda, Jackie Boucheix, Claudia Andria, Jenny Bailey, John Serra, Jan McPheat, Sharron Burns, Lyn Manuel, Michele Rosano, Louise Dawson, Alena Steinochr, Annie Coppins and Jane. **Terry Whyte for cutting up 40kgs of onions, a lot of tears have been shed.**
Lastly I would like to give a huge thank you to my husband Tom, without his help, these Fundraising days at Bunning's, would not come to fruition. He does all the heavy lifting, picks up all the supplies, and helps with setting up and cleaning up.

A BIG THANK YOU MUST GO TO BUNNINGS AT HILLARYS, FOR ALLOWING COMMUNITY GROUPS LIKE MALUBILLAI, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS AVENUE OF FUNDRAISING.

COMING EVENTS:

Monthly Meetings: - June 21st, July 19th and August 16th 2015. Meetings commence at 1.00pm and are held at Headquarters 22 Garland Street Victoria Park. **ALL MEMBERS** are very welcome to come along.

LAKE BALLARD WA

One of the pleasures of getting older is the ability to just get up and go, I embrace this aspect of ageing with delight. I recently read about the influx of Banded Stilts which are nesting at Lake Ballard, this is out of Menzies, so I thought why not go and have a look, it's been a long time since my last trip to Kalgoorlie. We left on Thursday came back on Sunday and enjoyed every aspect of the trip.

First stop was Kelleberrin where Kathy and husband Paul have moved to, for those who know Kathy well she cannot resist any animal which is in need of some care. Although they still have a way to go until the house is built etc. life seems to be treating them well they love the new lifestyle. As well as most of the birds Kathy housed in Perth and who are now very happy in their new homes, Kathy has baby goats, sheep and the cows which came from another of their properties. The local birdlife are enjoying the trees and shrubs which have been planted and of course the water ponds which Kathy has dotted around. It was a lovely stop over and I am sure I will be back.

We arrived in Kal. Later in the day and wondered around the huge wide streets, taking in the stunning buildings which are everywhere in the goldfields, mine sites are almost as common and to my mind it is such an interesting experience seeing the two different worlds together, old buildings, deserted townships and then huge modern mining operations seem to merge into each other – guess that's what makes this fabulous state so unique.

Next morning off to Menzies, via OraBunda which has a very colourful history, the name loosely translated means 'sash of gold' and the mine was originally pegged by 2 men from Ceylon (or Sri Lanka as is now known). Menzies still boasts a couple of pubs but not much else in the immediate township, but still well worth a visit. Lake Ballard is approx. 50km from Menzies via a reasonable gravel road; the lake itself is part of a system of salt lakes which spread thru that part of our state, right to Esperance. Normally it has little or no water in it, but due to recent heavy rains in the area it is now quite full, the walk out on to the salt pan is 'interesting' and well worth it. I didn't see the Stilts nesting sites as they choose islands which you cannot reach by foot; however the whole experience was amazing. I had read a report of over 150,000 nesting pairs in the area, how they know to deviate to the Lake to breed is another of the mysteries of birds and their habitat!

We stayed that night at a place called Kookynie which is off the beaten track on the way to Leonora, staying in the pub is like stepping back in time. In its heyday Kookynie boasted a population of 8,000 now there are 6 permanents living there. The bird and animal life was amazing – Miner Birds and Butcher Birds are everywhere, their calls are unmistakable and even in that environment they are cheeky birds, there were also beautiful butterflies, bats and various rather large insects which were at home sharing the bathroom with you. We went to Niagra Fall which is just outside of Kookynie it is unbelievably beautiful. To provide water in 1897 a massive concrete wall was erected over the water, this provided not only water for the local population but a much needed respite for the local fauna, It was here that I did finally see some of the Banded stilts, with parents bringing their young down for food and water. It is incredible to think what the early settlers had to contend with in their search for either gold, or a new and better life.

Next day we went off to Leonora as I wanted to see the old township of Gwallia, this like everything else you see in the goldfields is incredible, how people managed in such harsh conditions is hard to imagine, with the heat, flies and just the most basic of amenities, but they battled on and today we can catch a glimpse of that lifestyle, if we choose to…..

It was a fantastic journey, partly looking back in time and partly looking into the future, maybe not for everyone but it's a rare chance to see what has helped shape this country.

Heather Seear

BUDDY

I live in the beautiful southwest where I care and rehabilitate western Grey joeys then release them back to the wild; it is a full time commitment that lasts for fourteen months as I usually have joeys coming into care as young as six months.

What a pleasure it was to acquire buddy, a blue tongue bobtail goanna. Such a difference from caring for marsupials .The local vet rang me and asked if I would be interested in rehabilitating a goanna that had been run over by a lawnmower, I jumped at the chance and agreed to pick him up, after the vet had treated his wounds. The vet advised me on his treatment and gave me the appropriate meds, dressing and ointment. Buddy settled well into care, he had a huge appetite and loved his mince and fruit and was quite partial to mangoes. He was a real character, and very intelligent, he learned the sound of my voice within days, as my voice was associated with food.

He didn't mind me handling him for treatment and he would often like to remain on my lap whilst I stroked him on the side of his head. I fell in love with him which wasn't hard because of his trusting nature. His wounds healed quickly and after five weeks he was ready to be released back to the wild. After giving him his last meal, I drove him to a beautiful place by the river, where an old abandoned peach and apricot orchard still existed, far away from any human activity, where I knew he would be safe. I said goodbye as I placed him under the peach tree, I am sure he looked at me as if to say thank you ,and then he shuffled off into the leaf matter. He would have been in heaven, as there was such an abundance of ripe fruit under the trees for him to eat. It has been some months since I released Buddy, and I still think of him often and know that he would be happy. ***Shane Williams.***

Buddy enjoying mango

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.

Please send membership application form to: Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network Inc. PO Box 595 Victoria Park WA 6979

POEMS DEDICATED TO THE LOVE OF NATURE AND ANIMALS.

Symphony of Nature

It's amazing the effect the first rains have on Nature. I was at Lake Gwelup very early the other morning and the air was filled with bird song. As I stood on the walkway and looked out over the lake which had partially filled with water, the early morning sun glistening on the liquid silk, birds, two by two, busied themselves and I could feel the joy of new beginnings. Little birds darted in and out of the bushes and the musical tones of the black swans competed with the chorus of the Magpies and the ungracious cackle of the Wattle birds. Ducks plunged in and out of the water and scooted across the surface, chasing each other. The screeching of the Rainbow Lorikeets as they darted across the sky, their colours doing their name justice and the brilliant white of the Corellas as they joined in. I walked off the bitumen path right down to the water's edge and listened to the frogs amongst the reeds, the smell of the rain and the rustling of the leaves in the trees as the breeze caressed my face, was magical. No sounds of traffic, no voices, just Nature in all its simplicity. As I left, a Kookaburras laugh added to the general Symphony and felt alive, refreshed and ready for my day. **Jackie Boucheix**

You Are My World

My small life is in your hands.
Every drop of water I drink, each morsel of food I consume, every word and touch is delivered by you.
(You are the sun in my sky)
My daily safety is in your hands.
It is you who provides my companions, controls my environment, and determines the quality of my care.
(You are the moon above me)
My entire destiny is in your hands.
I offer in return, loyalty, love, companionship and my complete trust. It is all I have to give.
(You are the stars that shine down)
My entire existence is in your hands.
It is you that chose to be responsible for my needs, emotionally, medically and physically.
Till my time has passed
Author unknown (sent in by **Shane Williams**) Dedicated to all carers

"A cycle of Love" by Suzanne Clothier

'"There is a cycle of love and death that shapes the lives of those who choose to travel in the company of animals. It is a cycle unlike any other.

To those who have never lived through its turnings or walked its rocky path, our willingness to give our hearts with full knowledge that they will be broken seems incomprehensible. Only we know how small a price we pay for what we receive; our grief, no matter how powerful it may be, is an insufficient measure of the joy we have been given." I think this is beautiful and very meaningful for all!

Sent in by: - **Jackie Boucheix**

VALE' JEAN

Jean was a special lady who cared immensely about our wildlife. She took it upon herself to look after a local flock of magpies, knowing each one individually and by name. Over the years, I would visit Jean, and help with supplies and any advice she needed. It was always my pleasure to help Jean when I could. As her health slowly declined over the last few years, her visits to the park to see the magpies decreased. But a phenomenon occurred, whereby the less she visited the Park, the more the birds visited her house. I witnessed this strong bond they all had, when one of the magpies had been tangled in the branches of a tree, I had a call from Jean to see if I could help free it. When I went out the back, she had a yard full of magpies, with some butcherbirds and mud larks.
She adored these birds, and quietly, without fuss, went about her business in caring for them; she was a wildlife warrior, with her devotion to these creatures.
A few weeks ago, Jean lost her battle with cancer, but has left a lasting memory with me, and all those that knew her. Vale' Jean
Lyn Robson.

BALI SAFARI

Anyone who has been to Bali will be aware that there is a Safari Park, which with our friends we visited while on holiday in March.
We weren't disappointed, on the contrary, we were surprised at the cleanliness, organisation, and how well all the animals were looked after. I would definitely re-visit, and encourage others while on holiday to do so.
There were several Conservation, "Educational Shows". One involved many of the Zoo creatures, ranging from guinea pigs, rats, birds etc to orangutans'. The second show was about the plight of the Asian elephants, and how they are losing their habitat, due to increase population.
After the elephant show, the public were invited to go to the stage and take photos with the elephants.
My husband couldn't hold me back; I had to get up close and personal with one of these magnificent creatures. We snapped away with our cameras and I phones, and were rewarded with some wonderful pictures. The Asian elephants are smaller than the African ones and not intimidating at all. It was the most wonderful experience, I will never forget.
While walking through the Park, we came across one of the keeper's carrying a Macaw. We asked if we could take a photo, and with that, he handed me the bird, which was perfectly happy sitting on my arm. The closest I have ever been to one of these most colourful and magnificent birds. Two highlights in one day, I was overwhelmed**.** We left the Park with such a sense of fulfillment, not only in having been able to get close to some of these creatures, but to know, even in a poorer country like Indonesia, there are many people at work, caring and saving the world's wildlife. The entrance fee wasn't cheap in Indonesian terms, but helps towards their conservation programs. **Lyn Robson**

Lyn and husband at Safari Park