



MALUBILLAI WILDLIFE CARERS NETWORK INC.

ABN 54 155 708 894

Newsletter No: 49

MARCH 2016

MOPOKE

Welcome to our autumn edition of Mopoke, apologies for the later than usual mail-out of Mopoke but the last few weeks have been fairly eventful and busy for many of the Malubillai carers.

It is lovely to feel the cooler air, especially in the early morning, but not so sure about the shortening days as mornings are now quite dark, for those of us who still feed 'in care birds' it is a bit like feeling your way around the house with the lights of - trying to feed these guys before going to work.

The carers involved with our marsupials have been very busy with their charges, joeys seem to be around pretty much all year these days, and the dreadful bushfires in our state have had a huge impact on our wildlife. Both Lyn and Sue have done many trips both north and south trying to help injured and stranded joeys, at times this is a heart breaking role. At our recent General Meeting we had three of these lovely creatures join us, must say that Danny who came into care with severe burns to his hind legs and has bright red vet wrap bandaged around these said hind legs seemed to enjoy the change of scenery and was a welcome relief from the sometimes sad and depressing aspects of being a carer for any wildlife. Lyn is also representing Malubillai at Yanchep where the plight of kangaroos who have called the area around the golf course theirs for many years are now under threat as the urban sprawl continues to spread and impact on our wildlife. These creatures all need a voice – it is too late when they have disappeared from their natural habitat and been replaced by concrete and brick paving.



Heather Seear
President

A Special New Holland Honeyeater

In early December I had a call from a gentleman called Michael who wanted to know if I would be able to take the above into care as the bird had been with his elderly mother for some weeks and he felt that as Mom had to go into hospital it would be a perfect opportunity for the bird to become less imprinted. I was happy to have the little bird and as there are plenty of them around here it would be easy to release him here when the time came. This little bird had been in care almost from the time he hatched from the egg and Margaret had done a great job with his care, but he was terribly IMPRINTED and had a slight ankle injury which, at times, made it a little hard for him to balance comfortably. Margaret had also been given some wrong information in regards to his diet, this too had made an impact, but all in all I thought we could turn things around.

So he was placed in a large cage with lots of different level perches, plenty of foliage so he could learn what to look for when it was time to go, fruit, Lori mix and fresh water. I have to say that it took some weeks and tough love (on my behalf) for the little bird to stop jumping all over me whenever he saw me, and I just would not feed him, he had to learn where the food was. Eventually, and it did take time, he was able to perch properly, eat on his own and even started to ignore me!! His first 'mom', Margaret came over to visit and was delighted with the progress we had made, I was very pleased to and the local New Hollands were coming down to his cage and 'engaging' in some sort of communications. So I moved him to the large aviary, where he had plenty of room to strengthen his wings and get ready for the eventual release. After some week in the aviary he was very restless and seemed keen to move back into his real world, the local New Hollands were at the aviary very often and there were plenty of hibiscus flowers out in bloom (these seem to be a favourite of the New Hollands) so I took my chances and opened the door to see if that's what he wanted, within a very short time he flew off, straight up to the hibiscus, joined the others up there. Part of me felt slightly sad that this little bird no longer needed me but I was so pleased he was able to go back to what his instincts told him was right. Margaret rang me not long after he was released so I was able to relay the story to her and I wanted to include it in this Mopoke.

As a note – I have seen this bird flitting around, can pick him out by the way he stands, but have not seen him for over the last few weeks so I suspect he has made his way to another garden or local area.....I wish him well

Heather

Membership Application / Renewal 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

Doves in love.....

I, like just about all carers have raised many of these birds, generally speaking not much value is placed on these birds, but like all birds they too have their own personalities. Personally I don't mind them at all, they are very patient and forgiving, have few demands and pretty much just get on with life.

A pair of spotted Turtle Doves (who am pretty sure I had previously hand reared) decided they would become an item. Normally most birds seem to gravitate to the front part of the garden and not often come out the back, not these two – obviously they thought life is much easier living out in the back garden, after all there are plenty of free loaders enjoying different handouts, I guess they wanted some of the action. I will add here that these two had developed a passion for mealworms, often charging at the wattlebirds to try to get them to drop the few they had managed to get in their beaks. And forever on the lookout for any escapees. With that in mind they built a nest ('nest' is a fairly loose term when describing what a Dove considers suitable to rear their young from), this is the reason we get many in care, they tend to fall between the array of twigs which are meant to support them.

These two proceeded to build their nest on the very end of a branch on a medium sized tree, which was fine except that when the two babies eventually hatched we had that blistering hot week of pretty much the hottest weather we have had for many years. I don't think mom and dad realised that their babies would be in such a vulnerable situation. At this point I felt human intervention was needed as if left there without any protection they would certainly have been overcome with the heat and perished.

We ended up concocting a sun shield from shade cloth, this was no mean feat as branches, leaves etc. made it very difficult to actually secure the shade cloth, and eventually we managed to get it sorted. Mom and Dad had decided they weren't happy with us being so close to the babies and watched the events unfold from another tree (in the shade too, I may add). Later in the afternoon the parents crept back under the shade cloth and continued the rearing of their babies.

Babies grew and eventually the parents who must have grown tired of them sitting in the shade, in the precarious nest gave them the old heave ho.

Now, it's some time later, babies have gone, mom and dad are inseparable and still charging at the wattlebirds, or anyone else and getting more than their fair share of mealworms. They will often sit under the outside table just near my feet, and seem quite happy and relaxed in doing so, I think they realised what we did for them and appreciate the help we gave them.

Heather



MALUBILLAI SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Our carers and members are to hold two of these fund raisers this year, both at Bunnings in Cannington the first one will be held on Saturday 28th May commencing at 8.00am. The second will be held on Saturday 29th October 2016. All funds raised are used for the care of sick and injured wildlife in particular medical supplies as these are quite costly, funds are also used to cover our public liability insurance which is in excess of \$1000 per annum. We would welcome any support from readers of Mopoke either hands on, donations, or goods. We would also like you to come along and sample one of our spectacular



“sausage in a bun” we would love to see you.

Candy – Wildlife Ambassador.

I was asked to write an update on Candy, one of the last possums to come into my care last year.

I had been in touch with Michael Smith who is the owner and presenter of “Critters up Close”. Michael takes many of his Critters to schools, shopping centres, does presentations at Children’s parties, etc.

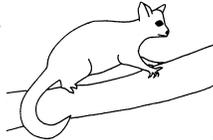
I had already had a long phone conversation with him to find out what it was all about, and found him to be a very pleasant and dedicated young man, absolutely committed to informing and teaching, particularly children on the importance of looking after our wildlife and the environment.

I followed up with a trip to a local shopping centre, to watch the entire presentation, (without introducing myself until after the presentation). I was extremely impressed, with the way Michael spoke and he had the kids absolutely enthralled. He was teaching all through the show, and it was easy to see that this was not just a business, but real dedication.

After Michael had all the paper work approved by DePaw, we arranged for me to take Candy down to his home this side of Mandurah. He has a beautiful set up for all his creatures, and I am sure that the officer from DePaw, who had been down to check, and make sure that everything was up to standard, would have been as impressed as I was.

So Candy is a little Wild life Ambassador now, and helping to teach – mainly youngsters, how important our wild creatures are. Not that Candy is very wild. She was very sweet and gentle before she went to live with Michael and his delightful family. Now she is very firmly attached to her new humans, and I know that they truly love her and she will have a wonderful life. She will even have a boyfriend, as Boo is the other resident possum, and a very handsome boy!

If anyone is looking for a children’s party with a difference, Michael keeps the kids totally involved and enthralled for an hour. Much more interesting than pin the tail on the donkey and pass the parcel!



This story is from our beautiful Jan McPheat (received in January for inclusion in this edition)

PARROT 28

It was hate at first sight! As I gingerly opened the box, the air was shattered with a squawk that would have cracked any crystal glasses within the vicinity! Luckily there weren’t any. It was young, his black currant eyes told me so and as I removed him (or her) I could tell that this was to be no easy relationship. Having been attacked by crows his mood was dark but apart from superficial wounds there was nothing dire, so rest and food was to be the answer for the next week or so. The main problem was food recognition and apart from apple he would not eat any seed. Just to be on the safe side I gave him some rearing mix in a syringe for a couple of days which he would attack and eat, in anger and soon after he starting eating seed, grapes, pears etc so I knew we were on our way to recovery.

This bird was found at Perry Lakes so when I was satisfied a week later that he could fly I took him to the lake area but did not have the exact spot of he was found. After having considered a couple of places, neither of which seemed right, I eventually chose a place which felt ok. The instant I opened the basket he flew straight to a low branch and emitted three piercing tweets which, to my amazement, were immediately answered by Mum and Dad who appeared within seconds! As you can imagine I was delighted! They sat together for a long while and then flew off, all three of them, to another area. It could not have been more perfect.

Jackie B

SWEET SMORGES BOARD

I have recently started keeping bees and have two hives set-up down in my yard amongst the fruit trees. As with all of us, my garden is alive with all manner of creatures as there is plenty of shelter, water and food on offer. My chickens and ducks also run in this section of the yard.

I was a little late with feeding one weekend and on entering the yard I heard such a commotion in the trees. As I stood and watched several Wattle Birds and Honeyeaters perched in the trees above the hives were taking turns in swooping down for a guaranteed beak full of my precious bees!! They are very careful not to get stung, tasking the bees to a branch and wiping their bodies across it to remove the stinger before eating them.

I can only image these to be a sweet treat!!



Donna S

NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS

New members and guests are always welcome along to our meetings which are held on the third Saturday of each month at 22 Garland Street Victoria Park commencing at 1.00pm. Donations towards our wildlife's needs are also welcome and can be deposited directly into our account, the details are: - **Direct Credit: BSB: 016 263 A/c No: 109493371 ANZ A/c name: Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network Inc.**

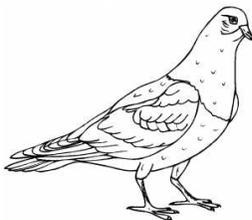
As we are a registered charity a receipt for taxation purposes and for your records will be forwarded.

PEGGY THE PIGEON

My granddaughter found a small pigeon covered in ants on the pavement in Midland and wanted to save the poor thing. Her mum gave her the choice of continuing on to the movies, lunch and shopping or taking the pigeon home and nursing it, the later was chosen.

Peggy has recuperated and is a very handsome pigeon with a problem foot despite the physio administered by mum and the advice sought from Heather, she has now taken up permanent residence. Her cage is on the front verandah with food etc. the door is left open every day, closed and covered at night, but Peggy is still in residence. Secretly I think they don't really want her to leave, BUT if only pigeons could be toilet trained.

Ronda Mc



PEGGY

ENVIROFEST 2016

EnviroFEST is Whiteman Park's flagship environment-focused event that aims to increase the public's awareness and understanding of the importance of trees, the environment and conservation in general.

Bringing together a range of community groups, environmental professionals and sustainable producers to showcase their products and services, **EnviroFEST 2016** will be a fun, family-oriented environmental festival open to the whole community.

Visitors to the event will be able to browse through the displays, listen in on workshops and presentations and take home an array of eco-friendly products and information to help them become more 'green' and sustainable at home.

Now in its sixth year, **EnviroFEST 2016** will be held on Sunday 10 April, 2016, in the **Village at Whiteman Park**.

MALUBILLAI will be hosting an exhibit at this event, please come along and support our wildlife and amazing carers

Our Jan McPheat

It is with much sadness that I need to advise that our beautiful Jan McPheat lost her battle with cancer yesterday and is now in a better place, no doubt Jan and her late husband Les, have much to catch up on. It has been a very difficult time for all of us at Malubillai as over the past few weeks we have watched our much loved and respected friend face this impossible battle. I am sure most of you will know of Jan and of her love and dedication to our native wildlife, especially the tiny baby possums which she quite simply adored caring for. Personally for me, it has been a privilege to have had a friend like Jan in my life and I hope she still walks silently with me.

Heather Seear

