



MALUBILLAI WILDLIFE CARERS NETWORK INC.

ABN 54 155 708 894

**Newsletter No: 48  
2015**

**December**

## **MOPOKE**

Welcome once again to Mopoke, this edition being the last one for this year. We hope you enjoy reading our little stories mostly about our native wildlife and the sometimes funny, sometimes sad tales of how these little guys manage.

As I sit here, I find it incredible that yet another year has flown by, we hope that 2015 has been a great year for you and your families and trust that 2016 will be even better. I would like to thank you all for your support of Malubillai and the care you have shown when it comes to our native wildlife and those of you who have contributed with stories for Mopoke, we can never get enough of them!

Looking back on 2015 I feel it has been a reasonably good year for Malubillai, the only down side is that we are still needing more volunteers to help us care for native wildlife, this is a common problem for most groups and there doesn't seem to be a quick fix to resolve it.

We have pretty much handled the bulk of the wildlife which required care over the spring and early summer part of this year, and I am sure many carers will feel a sense of relief as they have more empty than full cages and can turn their attention to their families and just relaxing over the Xmas break. The admissions for wildlife seem to be on a par with other years and I am pleased to say that the little Singing Honeyeaters have been abundant this season so perhaps last year was just one of those naturally occurring quieter seasons.

The Malubillai marsupial carers are constantly caring for their babies; many of those needing help are coming from the north west of the state as the numbers of available carers in those areas has declined quite dramatically. It is a constant juggling act with caring for these babies and having some sort of social life, even more difficult at this time of the year. So I would like to thank Lyn, Natalie and Sue for their passion and commitment.

Sadly we are losing one of our long time and highly respected wildlife carers, Lyn Robson has decided that she will finish caring for wildlife at the end of this year. Lyn and Tom feel that the time has come to do some travelling and have more time for their children and grandchildren. Lyn has been a major part of Malubillai since the very beginning of this journey, and I for one will miss her – not just for her amazing knowledge and understanding of our wildlife or the huge volume of pickups from vets, but mostly the kind and caring support she has given me and many other 'old timers' associated with Malubillai. From the bottom of my heart Lyn Thank You.

We hope you all have a very happy Xmas and the world is at peace and harmony during this special time of the year.

Heather Seear  
President

## A DAY IN THE COUNTRY

The plan was for Sue Rose and myself to go and visit friends in Jurien Bay, It is a nice drive and we talk a lot (actually I talk a lot and Sue listens) we have a laugh and we snack along the way. Hmmm we had six joeys between us on that weekend, they will have to come, not impossible? You just have to be organized, one of our carers was going away so we added her little nestling Magpie to the list, Then along came a baby possum who would also have to come along. On the night before we left another Joey came into care adding to the already growing list. Bottles needed making also pouches needed plus a couple of extras. Then food preparation for us.

Departure time comes and we are all set to go, 30 mins into the trip we realise it's a long weekend, bugger traffic, 35 mins into the trip we remember it is also the start of the school holiday , double bugger, worse traffic. We passed a few cars towing boats, yippee, then we stopped to check a dead roo and they pass us, damn. We pass them again and you know what we stop again and they pass us again. We went on like this for an hour and then had to stop and feed the joeys, the other wildlife and us then everybody passed us.

Back in the car and the whole nightmare starts again. The Malubillai phone rings and rings re injured wildlife .The only break is when we are out of range. We stopped to check on 12 bodies and passed and repassed caravans, boats and trailers. Time passed as well. During this time I had 11 phone calls re injured wildlife .We crawled into Jurien 2 hours later than we expected then I got us lost. Thank goodness Sue is so forgiving.

After a lovely lunch and a drive around Jurien and more feeding babies we prepared to set off for the return journey, however before we left three baby swallows with their nest joined the gang. During the trip home I received a call about a Joey that had been ejected from her mums pouch so we picked that up before Sue dropped me off, by this time the car had 8 joeys, 3 swallows, 1 possum and 1 baby magpie and it was nearly 10-00pm and we were exhausted. So much for going up the country for a quiet day. Should have stayed home in bed.

*Lyn Manuel*



### Postage increase

The cost of stamps will increase again next year, taking the existing 75c per general delivery stamp to \$1, we ask that if you could possibly arrange to have your copy of Mopoke emailed to your current email address we would appreciate this very much. Contact Ronda (secretary) at [johnandronda@bigpond.com](mailto:johnandronda@bigpond.com)

### **Wattlebird with attitude**

As most of you know I get more than enough of these little babies to rear, and at times have seen some very funny behaviour amongst them. One of the babies I reared and released last year met with some sort of accident after he started to explore his world. This resulted in the lady who found him in her court yard, unable to fly or stand, bringing him back to me. All went reasonably well for some time, as his injuries were quite significant, with his right leg and wing quite badly damaged, he needed to be contained in a smallish cage, this wasn't terribly exciting for a bird who was just starting out in life but it was necessary, eventually I moved him to a very large aviary and he gradually managed to get some movement back in the leg, although perching was proving to be a problem, so to was flying as the wing was quite damaged. I tossed up many times if I was doing the right thing in keeping him but I felt that he was such a fighter that I should continue to offer him the best chance of rehab. Eventually he managed flying, perhaps not in the most graceful way, and was also able to perch in the aviary, but I didn't think well enough to release him.

So he just stayed with me, and in my mind seemed quite happy with his little world.

Imagine my surprise when one evening I went to cover him up and no bird!!, After checking the aviary I realised that a small gate at the top of the aviary was undone, thinking I had been careless and somehow left the thing opened, I was concerned for his safety. After a search of the yard I located him and returned him to the aviary, made sure the gate was properly closed and thought that was that. Wrong!! Over the next couple of days the same thing happened and I again put him back where I thought he belonged, each time I put him back he let me know of his displeasure and squawked that he was not happy with this arrangement.

So I decided to watch what he did when I returned him to the aviary and sure enough he went straight to the gate and played with the latch until it gave way and he was off.



Now we have a very good arrangement – he spends his days and nights in the garden, and manages quite well and I leave food out for him on top of his old aviary. If I am out the front he always calls out and is never far from me. I think he has the best of both worlds – freedom, food source and someone who really cares about his welfare.



***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



## Raymond the Raven

I had a call from one of my neighbours asking me to pick up a black bird that was in her backyard, It turned out to be a baby raven who must have fallen from his nest in the gum tree which is in the small park in our area. Having checked him out for broken limbs or wings his only problem seemed to be that his flight feathers had not yet developed. Unable to relocate him to his nest I decided to sit him in my potted ficus in the front patio area in the hope that his parents would keep feeding him. He didn't seem to mind that a potted ficus is not nearly as nice as a tall gum tree.

It was not long before both parents came and sat on the fence checking out their baby. They then moved to the street trees and flew back and forth, talking nonstop, as if to encourage their baby to try and fly. But sadly they never fed him. When night time came I moved Raymond (as the baby was now called) to the back patio where he would be safe from predators but unfortunately not accessible to the parents. This involved carrying him through the house.

Early the following day I was woken by loud, frantic cawing coming from the front garden - there on the fence were two very anxious parents looking for their offspring. Every day I took him over to the park and his parents and I encouraged him to fly. When we were done I would gently scoop him up and sat him on my shoulder and the three of us would wander back across the road - mum, baby and me. One night when I was taking him to his night nest I looked around to find that Mum had followed us in and walked right through the house - checking out the accommodation I suspect! The parents never fed Raymond but they were there every morning calling for him and seemed to enjoy our sessions in the park, they never showed any signs of aggression towards me or to mind me picking him up or holding him. It was two weeks before the magic moment came and baby Raymond flew onto the fence then up into a tree - there was joyous squawking from all of us that day!

**Louise Dawson**



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**CANDY – Jan McPheat**

(sent to me in September, but too cute not to share)

Had to send this photo of my smallest baby. She came to me at 95grams and is now just over 440 grams, and just loves her teddy.

Her name is CANDY and she may be going to be passed to a group called “Critters up Close” They are a mobile unit of wildlife carers who do presentations at schools – shopping centres – retirement/care facilities etc. we will be meeting up with the owner soon, I have had a long conversation with the group, the operator sounds nice only a young guy with a family very much involved. They have had a lot of experience in wild life care and his presentations are to inform and educate. He will be down at a shopping Centre close to my home in a couple of weeks, so will catch up with him and see what he is all about. Candy could be living the life of Riley instead of fending for herself in the wild.



**CANDY**

I would like to share with readers a sweet picture of my granddaughter nursing a joey at a recent carers meeting, the look of love on her face is just delightful. Amy is a lover of all animals and has quite a menagerie at home. My problem is to convince her we don't have joeys that require nursing at every meeting. Thank you to Natalie Ovens, one of our wonderful carers, for allowing Amy to hold Bella, you made one little girl very happy. Her dad printed the picture for her and that was news at school the next day. **Ronda**



**AMY and BELLA**

## MARSUPIAL CARERS

The Marsupial carers at Malubillai have been flat out caring for over fifty joeys since April this year. Twenty five of them were Western Greys from the metropolitan area and Thirty five were a mixture of Reds and Euros from our North West where changes in the mining industry have led to many carers leaving the area to find work. This has left the remaining carers in a very difficult predicament, with not enough resources to effectively care for the many joeys and bird's also needing care the situation has become desperate. Changes in our climate have also contributed to an increase in the overall number of joeys in the wild mobs.

We have set up a program to help these carers as much as we can. Due to our ability to network with other groups and carers the joeys have been flown down and passed on to reputable carers to rear. Trips to the airport have become a regular occurrence and we are pleased to report all joeys have landed safely with no jet lag or other ill effects. Malubillai have records of where they are, and will provide support to find suitable release sites, these release sites will be in areas where the species naturally occur.

The problems with dwindling habitat due to increased population in the metropolitan area have a direct and devastating impact on all wildlife. The local joeys who come into care do so due to conflict with humans, motor vehicle impact, killing the mothers tops the list with 90% of admissions due to this tragedy.

Others are from golf courses where mums get hit by golf balls and need to be euthanised or joeys being ejected from mums pouch due to dogs chasing them.

Caring for a Joey is a full time job and a very big commitment. Most of our carers have at least two in care and some have over ten. When small they need bottle feeding every four hours, seven days per week, 24 hours a day, so no social life for carers, as it is not possible to be away from home even long enough to go to a movie. Holidays are out unless you can find a suitable Carer willing to look after the joeys as it is not acceptable to take them with you. Joeys are in care for up to eighteen months before release.

The cost of milk, chaff, pouches and bags is astronomical. Joeys suffer from stress easily and do not like too many changes so if a Joey gets sick it can get very sick very quickly and require urgent vet attention. While most vets do not charge for consultation if x-rays are needed and medication or surgery indicated the costs are prohibitive.

Recent donations of towels and bedding have ensured are Joeys will be warm and clean. However we need your help to continue helping the carers and the Joeys from up north.

Cash donations will help provide the much needed milk and vet treatment to help them grow into big strong healthy adult Kangaroos that can be released into their natural habitat. Our dream is that they will be around for generations of both Australians and visitors to our amazing country to enjoy.

***Thank you Lyn Manuel*** - On line donations can be made, using the membership payment details with a notation "for joey care"

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS, CARERS AND FRIENDS:** – Our first meeting for 2016 is



Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 commencing at 1.00pm.