



MALUBILLAI WILDLIFE CARERS NETWORK INC.

ABN 54 155 708 894

**Newsletter No: 47
2015**

September

MOPOKE

As always a big, warm welcome to our spring 2015 edition of Mopoke. It seems to me that winter has been long and cold so it is lovely to formally welcome spring time and say good bye to the cold, wet last few months.

I know I frequently mention this time of the year, probably because it's my favourite but also because of the stunning wild flowers which are competing with each other for the most beautiful plants you will ever see. A recent trip out to Mullewa only makes me realise how absolutely fabulous these plants are and I honestly think they look better in their natural environment where they are simply the stars of the flora of the wonderful state. Go and book yourselves a weekend off and enjoy them 'on the road'.

Now that winter has pretty much left us, the wildlife are doing what they do best....producing their young, we have been called on to care for Ducklings, Ravens, Wattlebird babies and of course the numbers of baby marsupials needing care is constantly on the rise, the carers of these delightful young are getting even less sleep than they previously were.

It will be interesting to see the numbers of wildlife admissions recorded at the end of this season compared to last year, as in 2014 the number of admissions was less than in previous years, perhaps it's the beginning of a trend or maybe 2014 was just a 'quiet year' for wildlife.

Malubillai holds the Annual General Meeting each year in July, amongst other matters at these meetings the Executive Committee is elected, this year was no different and so is the committee, with Donna Sutton - Vice President, Alena Steinochr - Treasurer, Ronda McKnight - Secretary, John Serra – Committee Member, Jan McPheat – Committee Member and Heather Seear – President. Thank you to those who again have again volunteered their time for these important roles.

At the AGM we also have an award which is in honour of Jenny Proctor, Jenny lost her battle with cancer some years back but her memory lives on and in tribute to Jenny we proudly award the Jenny Proctor Award annually, this year it was deservedly awarded to Jan McPheat. Jan works tirelessly for Malubillai and is the 'go to person' for anything to do with stock control and baby possums!! Thank you Jan for all the fabulous work you do.

Our AGM for 2016 and onwards will now be held in September, this is as a result of a recent audit and part of the auditor's recommendations. Please make a note.

Heather Seear

President – Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network Inc.

HOMER AND GUS.

Homer and Gus are my resident Pigeons. This of course, was not by my choice. Homer stopped by for a free feed about 3 years ago, when she noticed that I emptied the seed bowls out on the lawn, when giving my bird's fresh seed. She stopped by several times over the next week, then must have decided that she was onto a good thing and decided to stay.

As she had a band on her leg, I rang the Pigeon Society, they were going to get back to me – nothing happened so my daughter named her Homer, for obvious reasons. We didn't know if she was a male or a female, until she decided to shift into the shed when the weather became colder, then approaching spring, she started to lay eggs. She was given a little plastic basket, which she obviously thought was OK, she would then sit on her eggs for a few weeks before giving up, and leaving her nest. As soon as I disposed of her eggs, she would have a change of heart and lay another couple. Last year she laid 11 poor little thing.

Some months ago I acquired another Pigeon from a lady who had found it and taken it to the Vet, as it was not flying. The Vet would have euthanased it, as it is classified as a pest species, however the lady did not want that to happen, so she was given our mobile number, and I happened to have the phone so agreed to look after the bird.

Probably this one had flown into something, and was a bit sore for a few days, and wasn't interested in flying for about a week. By which time a bond had formed with the two birds, and although neither of them are confined to a cage, they now both live here, and are quite inseparable.

I was a bit worried that I may have "a pair" when once again Homer started to lay eggs and sit on them. So far, she has laid 6, and fortunately – no chicks have eventuated. Hopefully we can assume that Gus is really Gussie.

They are really sweet together and have shared the sitting duties. One will go for a fly, while the other one sits on the eggs, and then they will swap over. They have just given up on the third pair of eggs, so no doubt will have another try soon. May the eggs all be infertile!!!



By - JAN McPHEAT

THANK YOU LOUISE

"A BIG THANK YOU" to Louise from VIP Veterinary Clinic, and her partner for making 3 new plastic trays to fit in the flight cages. It is very much appreciated and now these cages can be used.

BUBBA THE BABY BOOBOOK OWL

On the 1st January, two years ago, a neighbour drove up our driveway and produced a little bundle wrapped up in her daughter's jumper. It was a baby Boobook owl with a broken leg.

I took him to the vet who pinned the leg.

Now it was feeding time, - do you think he would eat, no way. In desperation I rang the Owl Man who said, you will have to force feed him, and they can only last a couple of days without food.

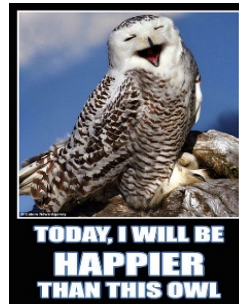
At this stage I had had him for over a week, so my guess is he did eat something. Force feeding went well and he grew.

Next it was bandage removal time and I was at risk of being grabbed by his talons. I put oil on the sticking plaster and it came off quite easily.

Over the next few weeks he grew stronger by the day. The Owl Man advised me to release him from my home. So early on evening off flew Bubba, a very young and handsome owl.

It was a great experience to share time and learn from him.

Sharron Burns



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

It's been very quiet on the home front concerning wildlife. Apart from a duck with a fishing hook in its foot and a Cuckoo Shrike with a banded leg and a clipped wing (big mystery?) who is now happily in Kellerberrin, receiving the attention it deserves from one of our most dedicated carers until it can fly again.



This quiet phase will not last of course as Spring is just about here, but keeping me entertained are my Rainbow Lorikeet babies who hatched in February and are already very fluent in English thanks to Dad Billy, from whom they have picked up just about everything he says!

As all siblings, Tom and Dora fight and squabble but instead of making normal bird noises they say everything they know so this is how an argument sounds when I enter the aviary and they compete as to who gets to me first, foot raised to block the other.

Tom: 'Mummy loves din-dins' (foot raised) **Dora:** 'Billy have a drink' (her face in front of his) **Tom:** 'cat meow' (pushing and shoving) **Dora:** 'Billy have a bunny meow' **Tom:** 'stop it' (grabbing hold of others feathers) **Dora:** 'drink it's mummy'.... and so it goes on and I find it hilarious and a great way to start and finish the day! I'm keeping my eye open for Lizzie my little gecko that would wait for me last year every morning for its bit of fruit, hopefully, she'll re-appear soon. **Jackie Boucheix**



COMING EVENTS

SAUSAGE SIZZLE – November 7th at Bunning in Cannington: - We need volunteers to come along for around 2 hours each – **PLEASE** email Ronda if you are available and willing to help raising funds. johnandronda@bigpond.co.

MONTHLY MEETINGS - Third Saturday of each month commencing at 1.00pm next is scheduled for Saturday 17th October 2015, 22 Garland Street Victoria Park, new members always welcome. For further information please call 9362 4149 - Heather Or 9356 2045 - Ronda

VISIT TO KATHY'S at KELLERBERRIN

The group travelled in 2 vehicles and arrived at Kathy's place around 12.30.

We had a lovely look around/tour of the property, met the newest animals and re-acquainted ourselves with the older animals; the Maggie's were not too keen on us at first as they have developed a strong tie with the McEnaney but eventually came around to accepting us.

The Ravens seem perfectly at home and have started nesting!!

The Dexter cow population has increased with 2 babies being born this year, of course Kathy is not quite sure how it's all going to pan out but the daddy and mummy cows are going to be separated in due course.

The sheep and pig happily share the same paddock with the goats and little Precious is still with us, although the arthritis is still in her legs she seems happy enough and is very much loved by Kathy and her family.

The dogs were happy to have visitors and the once puppy is now a ball obsessed grown dog, Presley is still very placid, which is a good balance.

The seedlings and trees we planted last trip have taken, not all but a good percentage. Kathy's gardens have also taken off and look fantastic.

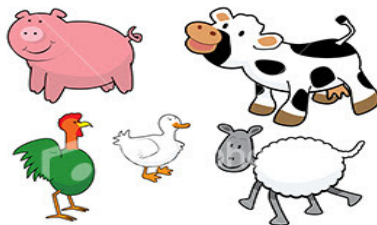
The house is pretty much completed and very much has that country welcome and calmness to it.

Our lovely lunch was supplied by Kathy, so we ate, drank coffee and just talked, it was wonderful to see Kathy and her family enjoying their country life so much, no doubting it has been a big step for the McEnaney but one which they are now reaping the rewards.

Ashton celebrated his thirteenth birthday the day of our visit; he has grown into a handsome and delightful young man, and has a passion for the guitar, we were fortunate enough to have a mini guitar concert thanks to Ashton.

Before we knew it, it was pretty much time to pack up and make the trip back to Perth.

Kathy, Paul and Ashton thank you all so much for making us so welcome and the lovely day we all had sharing it with you and your animals.



Heather Seear

DOCENT TRAINING – Recently I have completed training as a Docent at the Perth Zoo, during the 10 weeks of training we had to present a number of talks, walks etc. and also present at a concert. One of our very talented trainees wrote and presented this poem. Thank you Emily for allowing me to include it in Malubillai’s newsletter. Ronda

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| <p>A poem for the big concert What a daunting thing but what else can I do? I don't dance and I don't sing</p> <p>It won't be the first one I've written And "touch wood "it won't be the last What can I say that includes everyone? How do I describe the special days that have passed?</p> <p>The wonder of the Cassowary The magic of the tree kangaroo The silliness of the emus the majesty of the black cockatoo</p> <p>We visited infant swamp tortoises Tiptoed around the baby numbats Heard the tale of the white bellied frog And learned that dibblers are not rats</p> <p>Did anyone see the Red Panda? Some lucky ones got a bit of a look a keeper in the tiger's yard gave us a fright But thank goodness everything was being done right</p> <p>We looked at proud and mighty trees Some more than a century old Each one equally impressive A delight to hear their stories told</p> <p>Seeing what it means to be a Docent Each presented more talented than the last Extra effort and hard work is apparent I'm hoping I'm up to the task...</p> <p>This morning the Dingoes came to see us What an unexpected treat A little overwhelmed but still as good as gold Such a thrill when one bravely sniffed my feet</p> <p>We've also been visited by a Woma And a radiated tortoise too How lucky I feel to be in training Never a dull day at the zoo</p> | <p>And how can I not mention morning tea Always an incredibly fabulous spread Never have I seen such an array of delights There's no doubt we trainees are well fed</p> <p>At the vet clinic we saw a wide collection of skulls Provided courtesy of the flesh eating beetle The monkey skulls like little versions of our own You could be forgiven for mistaking them for people</p> <p>The capuchins stared as we passed them by Curious about these people out the back The ring tailed lemurs didn't spare us a glance I think it's fair to say they're a bit slack</p> <p>Such fun to be out and about exploring Being shown the lay of the land Secret Docent and Keeper paths shared Trooping along we're a happy band</p> <p>We had to give our first talk last week And it was nice getting to know everyone Comments were warm, sincere and supportive People's stories were entertaining and fun</p> <p>The only thing missing were our kind mentors Not there to see us shine What a shame for them to miss it After putting in so much of their time</p> <p>Now we have a new job in hand Two weeks to know our beast inside out We've seen experienced Docents make it look easy Their fine example something we couldn't do without</p> <p>So far I've had such a wonderful time I can't wait to see what each new week will bring The people I've met have been lovely So nice as new friendships begin</p> <p>In conclusion I would like to say It has been a wild nerve wracking ride But I'm sure it will all be worthwhile To be a future Docent fills me with pride</p> <p>By EMILY LIPPLE</p> |
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