



MALUBILLAI WILDLIFE CARERS NETWORK INC.

ABN 54 155 708 894

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October

MOPOKE

Welcome to our Spring 2017 edition of Mopoke, the newsletter of Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network Inc.

It is with much sadness that we need to inform you all that this Spring edition of Mopoke will be our last. We have always tried to provide our readers with new and interesting stories about our amazing wildlife and although we do have some material each quarter we really do not have enough to fill our little newsletter. We will, however, still provide information about our wonderful wildlife on our website and our face book page.

I would sincerely like to thank all of you wonderful people who have helped contribute to Mopoke, either with articles of interest or feedback and lovely comments about some of our stories, many of you have enjoyed the day to day sagas of hand rearing our beautiful babies and we carers have enjoyed sharing the happy and also the sad times of caring for this precious wildlife. There have been many people within Malubillai who have worked very hard to keep Mopoke going and again thank you all so much.

As we are in the middle of springtime, there are many babies to care for and eventually release back to a sustainable environment, to date there have been ducklings, ravens, lorikeets, swallows, wattlebird and honeyeater babies, baby doves who just keep on turning up, no matter what the weather is. To name just a few. The marsupial carers have, as always, been kept busy with their charges. It is a busy time but it is very rewarding to watch these tiny creatures thrive and grow and eventually leave us.

Our AGM was held last month and our 'new' committee was re-elected, there were few changes within the committee and I would like to thank those who offered to continue with their roles. A special thank you to Alena Steinochr for the effort she has given as the role of Treasurer, due to work commitments Alena has had to reduce her involvement within Malubillai.

Heather Seear

President – Malubillai Wildlife Carers Network Inc.

New Nest Box

As you all would realise I have several nest boxes in my garden, these are enjoyed by several species of birds. The local Pink and Greys have staked a claim on one particular box and defend this box against all who think they may like to use it, and I may add they seem to have a very good success rate in rearing their young from this box.

Recently I was lucky enough to be given and installed a nest box designed to attract the Black (or Carnaby's) Cockatoos. This particular nesting box is quite different in design to the other boxes as it is designed to resemble a deep, hollow tree branch which is the nest site of choice for the Cockatoos. I am hopeful the Cockatoos will see this 'hollow log' and eventually use it as a nest site.

The installation of this nest box was quite something as a large cherry picker was required to hoist the thing up high enough and then secure it to one of the large gum trees. During this whole procedure I noticed there was much interest from the 'locals', the Pink and Greys were particularly keen on seeing what was happening. Eventually the box was secured and the cherry picker departed.

As I looked on at the new nesting site and secretly imagining that I may one day get baby Cockatoos in my garden, the peace was shattered by the noisy squawks and screams of several different birds, the loudest was, of course, the Pink and Greys, who eventually won the day and spent the next week or two clamoring in and out of this very deep potential nesting site. They eventually must have come to the conclusion that it really wasn't going to be a 'home among the gum trees' for any potential babies of theirs! And they now seem to have forgotten about it.....I am still hopeful that next season it may be used by the intended variety of birds.

Heather

Hungry Mouths to feed....

I have always encouraged the birds in my garden to feel safe, have enough to eat and if need be help them out if they have a problem. My family and I recently went on a trip to New Zealand, this was a wonderful holiday and was particularly lovely spending time with all of the extended family.

I have several dear friends who always help me out when I go away, they feed the birds (both the free loaders and the caged ones) and keep an eye on the house for me. This makes it so much easier to actually get away and I am always so grateful.

When we came back, even I was a little taken aback by the number of parent birds needing extra food for their babies, the Wattle birds, Singing Honeyeaters and Mudlarks were constantly checking to see if there were some extras for their families. I am not sure if there are just lots of babies around or the food supply required is decreasing, whichever way I am still happy to help out and I feel so privileged when the adult parents bring me their latest offspring to show me how beautiful their baby is.

It just goes to show that all parents, regardless of what species they are, have the same pride and love in their offspring.

Heather

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THE TRAGIC SIDE OF DEVELOPMENT

Once again hundreds of our precious wildlife are set to lose their home and sadly many of them, their lives.

Whilst development is a must to provide homes for the increase in population it seems unfair that it should be at the sacrifice of our wildlife. This scenario is played out time and time again. However there is hope for a solution, if we all work together to ensure that planning for future developments include a plan for the wildlife. The Swan Urban Growth Corridor is one such example. Many Western Grey Kangaroos who have been displaced by development to the north, currently call the open fields at Brabham home. As the clearing for houses and schools pushes south so the kangaroos have to move. Very soon the flee southwards will end. There will be nowhere for them to go. Already some have been injured by impacts with motor vehicles and many have died. Families have been separated by fences and have been left alone and confused. This could have been prevented if development had started in the south therefore pushing wildlife north into bush areas. Leaving corridors of natural bush in developments would enable animals to move freely between areas of natural bush and also support birds and reptiles.

We have a responsibility to future generations and show them how development must have the welfare of wildlife in mind. While relevant authorities are trying to find a solution to this disaster at Brabham it needs to include a way to prevent this from happening again. With more thoughtful plans we can protect our wildlife and minimise vehicle impacts and the potential for serious injury, or worse, with humans.

We urge motorists in the area to slow down and be aware of the kangaroos and other wildlife crossing roads. For injured wildlife please call the Wildlife Helpline on 94749055.

Australia has lost more plants and mammals to extinction than any other country and has more threatened animals than 98% of the world countries. This is because most other countries have killed off their wildlife by clearing native vegetation. As a progressive nation surely we should have learnt from the mistakes made by other countries and protect and conserve what "we have" in an effort to prevent it from becoming what "we had"

Clearing for the Perth to Darwin Hwy and a proposal for a Cemetery and a \$200 million dollar active open space for Whiteman Park should just about wipe out every living species of wildlife in that area. Research by Dr Hugh Finn and Hahiid Stephens from Curtin University has shown. Land clearing is a significant environmental issue in Australia and an area of active legislative reform. Despite evidence of the harm that land clearing causes to individual animals, such harm is either ignored or considered only indirectly in environmental decision-making. We argue that the harm that land clearing causes to animals ought to be identified and evaluated in decision-making relating to land clearing and consider the following three propositions in support:

- (1) land clearing causes deaths that are physically painful and psychologically distressing because of their traumatic and debilitating nature;

- (2) land clearing causes physical injuries, other pathological conditions, pain and psychological distress over a prolonged period as animals attempt to survive in the cleared environment or in the environments they are displaced to ; and
- (3) On the basis of current clearing rates, more than 50million mammals, birds and reptiles are likely to be killed annually because of land clearing in Queensland and New South Wales alone. The scientific consensus about the harm caused by land clearing means that decisions to allow land clearing are decisions to allow most of the animals present to be killed, as such, frameworks for decision-making ought to include proper evaluation of the harm to be imposed,

Lyn Manuel

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Short Stories from Helen (carer friend of Sharron)

After being rescued when her mother was killed by a vehicle, with much tender loving care a little Joey survived only to be attacked by a “wild Dog” She is now approximately six months old, however it is believed that the vehicle impact has left her with slight brain injury.

The dog attack caused some very nasty wounds which have now healed.

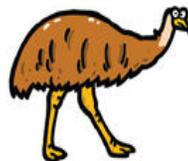
Her greatest pleasure apart from being totally spoiled is travel in the car, if she suspects the vehicle is going somewhere she sits by the driver’s door and won’t move.

Consequently she has seen much of our countryside.



Being a receiver of rescued joeys can be a lot of work but also a lot of fun. At one point a family member had 7 joeys of varying sizes and ages. Once big enough to leave the bag, they spend the days in a large outdoor area. They have complete freedom during the day as the gates are left open and they have the choice to go bush or stay at home. Most choose to stay home, with a menu on offer of fruit, vegetable and seed platters. In summer the occasional ice cream and a sweet tray. It is funny to watch them make their choices and they are so fussy.

We recently visited some friends who operate a station in the Pilbara, as well as the usual cows and sheep the friends had a range of rescued wildlife. Kangaroos, camels and an adorable emu chick who loved attention from visitors. The chick who was approximately 45cm tall, just loved having her neck scratched, her head would flop to the side and off to sleep it would go, once the scratching stopped, it would awake with a look that said, don’t stop, I love it.



While walking in the bush a young man discovered a dead possum, thankfully he checked her pouch which held a baby. He took the baby home and after seeking advice on how to raise it. The possum was very energetic and loved to run up and down the curtains, hide in

the wardrobe and under the pillows. When it was hungry into the kitchen it went and grabbed hold of an ankle until the milk arrived. It loved a cuddle and would generally fall asleep in the arms of the person giving the cuddles. When it was considered able to care for its self and live independent it was taken back when it was found, climbed a

tree and was never seen again.



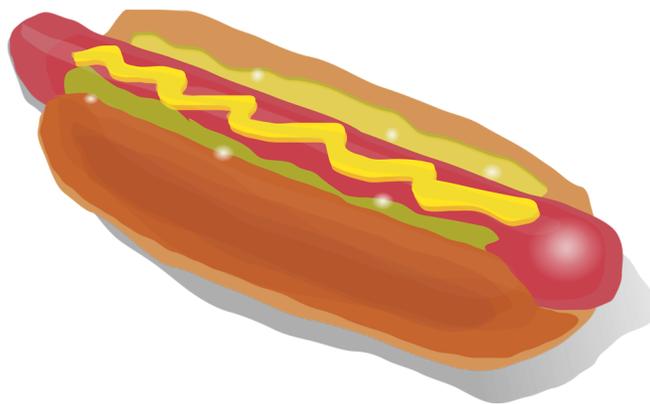
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MALUBILLAI WILDLIFE CARERS SAUSAGE SIZZLE

SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2017

BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE CNR OF LEIGH ST AND ALBANY
HIGHWAY,
Opposite Carousel Shopping Centre

PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT OUR CARERS IN
THEIR EFFORTS TO HELP OUR SICK AND INJURED
WILDLIFE.



If anyone has a spare hour or so and would like to help on the day please call Ronda 0417092059