



**FAWNA** NSW INC  
FOR AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE NEEDING AID

# Newsletter

Spring 2019

## From your Management Committee

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On 1st July last we received this great news

**“Congratulations – you’ve been shortlisted for a 2019 Australian Ethical community grant** You’re one of 32 projects we’ve selected from over 400 applications – great job! You were chosen because we believe the work you’re doing can create real impact for some of our most pressing issues.”

**And it was even better** when we received the news that the community and membership who took the opportunity to vote succeeded in FAWNA being awarded one of the grants totaling \$20,000 for use to purchase rehabilitation enclosures and thermal support products for our wildlife in rehabilitation.

We owe a debt of gratitude to committee member, Yvette Attleir, who contacted co-ordinators gauging members needs, did the planning and costings and put the application together.

**Thank you Australian Ethical Foundation for believing in FAWNA**, and we send our congratulations to our colleague group, Friends of the Koala in Lismore who also received a \$20,000 grant for provision of veterinary services “in house” to avoid the need to transport their koala charges for veterinary treatment.

**We send a big welcome to new Members and those who are embarking on their wildlife rescue and care journey.**

**We have a few new phone operators to help spread the load.**

**Thank you everybody—you all contribute in some way to the fantastic job we manage to do for our wildlife that needs us.**

**Over the next few months we will be sharing with you the summary data of the past 12 months of wildlife called in to FAWNA to deal with in some way. It has been a champion effort and we are proud of all your achievements—Thank You.**

Published by: F.A.W.N.A. (NSW) Inc.  
(For Australian Wildlife Needing Aid)  
P O Box 218, WAUCHOPE NSW 2446  
24Hr Rescue **6581 4141**

FAWNA (NSW) Inc is the totally volunteer rescue group for native animals and is licensed by

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF FAWNA’S ANNUAL BRYCE LAUT MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AND CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

**When?** Sunday 01 December 2019

**Times?** 11.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

**Where?** Johns River Hall, off Pacific Highway, Johns River

**Catering:** If you can bring a share plate of nibbles, savoury or sweet, (no sandwiches please) please contact Jill Eagleton on 65590067

**RSVP:** fawna.nsw.inc@gmail.com so we have some idea of numbers to cater for.

Come and meet your FAWNA colleagues in a social environment and help celebrate those who have reached 20 and 30 year memberships.

(a quiet animal room will be provided for those wildlife charges that need to be fed)



Yellow-bellied  
Glider

**Disclaimer: All articles in this newsletter represent the opinion of the author and not necessarily the opinion of the Publisher. FAWNA (NSW) Inc will not be held responsible for the content or opinion expressed in the articles.**

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NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service Licence No MWL100327. FAWNA is the only all-species group licensed for rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned fauna in the LGAs of Kempsey, Port Macquarie-Hastings and Mid-Coast.  
[www.fawna.org.au](http://www.fawna.org.au)

FAWNA has Tax Deductibility for donations and an Authority to Fundraise CFN11653.

## ***Kangaroo with water container on head,***

### ***Meredith Ryan***

FAWNA wildlife rescuers get called to many unusual situations such as one on a Sunday morning to a kangaroo with its "head stuck in a water container" at Pembroke.

Meredith and Andrew arrived at the scene and plotted several different rescue plans depending on how the young sub adult male roo reacted to human presence.

The kangaroo family succumbs to deadly capture myopathy with any prolonged chases, so it was important for them to find a quick rescue solution.

The first option of corralling the roo against a fence didn't work. Plan B to quietly track and use a rope lasso and some positive but gentle force to restrain the animal while the container was removed worked a treat and within seconds the roo happily leapt a fence and escaped from those "scary humans".

We wonder if the 2 litre water container might have had some water in it and the roo was able to get its head in, but not out again. The lesson to be learned is to properly dispose of rubbish to avoid harm to wildlife.

*This story was picked up by social media outlets and broadcast overseas as well as widely around Australia.*



## ***Fox Cubs by Cheryl Winner***

I received a photo from a neighbouring wildlife carer asking me? Is this a young quoll? Could I identify please?

This young animal is a Red fox cub. Fox cubs look nothing like their ginger red parents when born they are a slate grey colour.

Young fox cubs look like a cross between a dog and a cat and are often mistaken as kittens.

Fox predation is recognised as having a serious impact on many native animals and is considered to be a major contributor to extinction of some species.

The four fox cubs were humanely euthanased.



## ***Tawny Frogmouths in trouble by Meredith Ryan***

Some of the wildlife are suffering from a reduction in normal food resources around - insects, nectar, etc. One disturbing thing that happens with Tawny Frogmouths is:

In good times these birds lay down fat reserves. These fat reserves can store toxins that the birds ingest in insects that have been sprayed with or have themselves ingested herbicides and insecticides. When the Tawnies start using their fat reserves the toxins get released into their system and the result is usually a fatal one and quite distressing for those humans who come across the birds.

Regarding putting out food. We do not encourage it but we know some people will do it despite what we recommend. The important thing is that if people insist on putting out food, honey, sugar and bread are absolutely no-nos. People should visit their pet supply store and source the correct nectar, insect or seed mix for the birds that visit their garden. Food should not be left out every day and any feed containers should be of washable and non-porous materials like glass, metal, hard plastic or glazed ceramic and kept scrupulously clean and changed daily. Food should never be placed straight on the ground to avoid contamination by faeces. The overriding recommendation is not to feed wildlife which creates dependency and competition among native species. It also leads to neighbourhood disputes.



## **Birds, birds and more birds by Robert and Angela Cooke**

I thought I would recap on some of our more interesting rescues since beginning with FAWNA in November 2011. To date we have logged in around 890 rescues, an imposing number.

Our first rescue was that of a baby Masked Lapwing (aka Plover) that 2 young boys had picked up on the river bank. We returned the little chick to whence he came, the parents came over to reclaim their prized possession and we thought this is going to be a breeze. Little did we know!

We received a phone call from Taree West School to say that a Lorikeet had fallen down a downpipe from the gutter. Armed with our drill (marvellous things battery powered drills) we drilled out the rivets, removed part of the downpipe and the Rainbow Lorikeet flew off without so much as a thank you.

A little old lady had a crow stuck in her fence. It was a paling fence and the crow had his foot stuck between 2 of the palings. I borrowed a screwdriver from the lady, prised off one of the palings and released the foot. Fortunately the skin was not broken and off the crow flew.

Another rescue involved Rosellas who either made their home in a fireplace which had been boarded up or they chose to nest there. We only needed a screwdriver this time to remove the board and out flew 2 juvenile Rosellas. The home was occupied by an old couple who did not seem to want to throw much out - it was a job to catch the birds amongst all their treasures.

We recently received a call to rescue a brush turkey that was hanging upside down from a tree at Saltwater Reserve. He was hanging about 4 feet off the ground from fishing line entangled around his foot and this had wrapped around the branch while he was flying. Angie held him up while I cut the line and we then painstakingly removed the rest of the line from his foot - thankfully it had not embedded into his skin. I was surprised how heavy these birds are and we counted about 13 foraging around at Saltwater.

As we started with a little Masked Lapwing we can also finish with one. Today I was called out to Old Bar for one that had fallen down a stormwater grate and dad was standing guard. A strong gentleman helped me lift the grate and there were two little ones in the drain. Using my trusty prawn net and a stick I scooped them into the net and carried them over to the vacant block (where they were born) and reunited them with their parents. They would only have been a few days old and this was their first outing - not a great introduction to the big world.

## **Southern Bird Report by Gail Whitwell and Wendy Bawn**

With the Spring season now upon us, cages are being cleaned and disinfected, as victims come and go, and as usual, we are seeing Kookaburras and Tawny Frogmouths that just don't understand how chasing insects in front of car lights at night is not going to end well for them. Surprisingly, sometimes with some vet assistance and rest with our carers, they make remarkable recoveries. In our Southern area to date we unfortunately have seen several Tawnies come into our care with Toxic Syndrome and it has on all occasions resulted in fatalities.

This little fellow is a Regent Bowerbird. He made a great recovery from being concussed after flying into a window. He was taken to the local vet, where he was later collected by Barbara and brought to me for care.

A Wompoo fruit dove, was successfully rehabilitated and released by Bob after being in care for several days. The status of these birds is declining so we were more than pleased with this outcome.

Morgan is currently busy feeding 5 little mouths, she has 2 nestling Crested pigeons and 3 nestling Noisy miners. Morgan is very patient with baby birds and enjoys rearing them

Callum and Susan have been busy rearing several Wood ducks amongst other victims, and I believe Susan got a

little wet recently on a rescue mission, capturing a very badly injured Pelican in the lake at Coomba Park, well done guys.

We see some dreadful Pelican injuries in the Great Lakes area and having Susan and Callum on board now is very welcome.

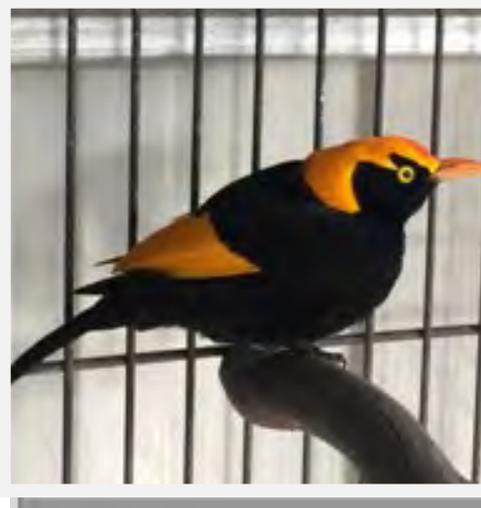
Anna has also been busy rearing a nestling Magpie that had come into her care, it has now been transferred and buddied up with Tony & Zoe's two Magpie fledglings, that are now 200 grams and doing well.

Wendy is currently trying to keep up with 15minute feeds for 3 little Welcome swallows and she has a juvenile Wattle bird as well, well done Wendy - you'll eventually get some rest!!

Ozina the Kookaburra, mentioned by Wendy in the last newsletter, has a boyfriend now and is about to become a Mother. She has made a nest, which contains eggs. Well Done Ozina. By the way, she still comes back for treats.

Thank you to all our dedicated rescuers and carers in the Southern area, Wendy and I appreciate your time and effort in helping our native birds. We know that with weather conditions being what they are, we will see many more birds come into our care throughout the Spring/Summer season.

Cheers from Gail & Wendy.



## **PS from the Winter edition Macropods Down South**

**"By the way, we forgot to mention in the Honey and Gemma story that Honey was first rescued by Tony Inglis. She was taken to Cheryl Winner who did the main "pinkie to 600g" care, then back to Tony and Zoe for several months shared care before Honey was transferred to Anna for pre-release and release. Many FAWNA hands ensured this girl's great outcome to release and motherhood"**

## **RAT BAIT KILLS OWLS—A report from Bird Life Australia**

Rats are pests in many situations, and the easy solution to get rid of them is to reach for a packet of rat bait. Problem solved, or so it seems.

However, it is where many more problems begin. Many rat poisons claim that the rodents 'go away to die', but in the meantime, poisoned mice and rats are often seen out in the open, and, being rendered sluggish by the poison, they are easily caught by birds of prey — owls at night and hawks during the day.

A recent study in Western Australia revealed that 73 per cent of Southern Boobooks tested showed a detectable exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides (the most commonly used rodent poisons), with 18 per cent having levels of exposure that were high enough to kill them directly. Anticoagulant rodenticides adversely affect the physiology of owls and other birds of prey, even if they don't kill them outright.

Adding to the issue is that modern, 'second generation' rodent baits may remain in the systems of predators for months or even years.

If you must use a rat bait, be careful to choose one that will cause less harm to our native birds if they eat a poisoned rodent. On the packet, look for 'Active Constituents' that include compounds such as Warfarin or Coumatetralyl. If the bait contains more harmful substances, such as Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Difenacoum, Difethialone or Flocoumafen, leave it on the shelf.

use this link for more details [http://birdlife.org.au/documents/BirdLife\\_Bird\\_friendly\\_rodent\\_control\\_final.pdf](http://birdlife.org.au/documents/BirdLife_Bird_friendly_rodent_control_final.pdf)

## **Aussie Backyard Bird Count 21—27 October —Start counting by registering at <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/#register>**

We encourage all FAWNA members and readers to take part in this annual bird count. Your participation will help measure how bird populations are trending in this difficult time of drought and climate change affecting our fauna so badly. This annual initiative by Bird Life Australia is fun for all the family, takes very little time and provides valuable data on bird populations and movements throughout Australia.



A SOUTHERN Boobook in FAWNA's care—Pic Meredith Ryan

## **CAN YOU GIVE A HELPING HAND? By Louise Moore**

For various reasons there are a number of FAWNA members who are unable to 'actively' rescue and care for wildlife in need. However, some of you may be able to contribute in other ways.

**You may have native plants in your garden such as grevillea, bottle brush, lilly pilly, banksia etc.**

When I have a possum in care I find the daily search for native food to be quite a challenge. It would be a wonderful help if I knew of a member I could call on to collect fresh tips or flowers.

**Do you have carpentry skills?**

You may be willing to donate your time to make nest boxes. Around 20% of Australian wildlife (including birds) need tree hollows for their survival to nest and breed. With the continual destruction of old growth forest, nest boxes can play an important role in conservation.

**Do you enjoy sewing and knitting?**

FAWNA is fortunate enough to have some wonderful people who already donate their time and skills to sew cotton liners and knit woollen pouches for joeys. However, it would be beneficial to have a list of people willing to contribute their time if the need arises in the future. Co-ordinators can provide preferred sizes and patterns.



## Microbats – Mysterious and Misunderstood Mammals

### Report on a Training Day for Rehabilitators—Meredith Ryan

On the last day of Winter 2019, thirty rehabilitators, already dealing with microbat rehab, or aspiring to, joined together in Lismore for a Care and Rehabilitation of Microbats training day. The course, jointly organised by Northern Rivers WIRES and Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers was held at Southern Cross University and trainees represented Bat Conservation Rescue Queensland, FAWNA (NSW), Mid North Coast WIRES, Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, Northern Rivers WIRES, Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers, Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers and Wildlife Aid.

The presenter, Rachel Lyons, a convener of the Facebook Australian Microbat Rehabilitation Forum and the co-author of the extensive document *Introduction to the Care and Rehabilitation of Microbats* prefaces the manual with “this guide is a work in progress ..... there is much to learn about the particulars of our native microbat species as we get better each year in our rehabilitation practices we will be continually updating this guide”.

“Please share your knowledge and learnings as we have, so that we can improve our collective understanding of microbat rehabilitation .... ”

The trainees were in awe of Rachel’s knowledge of anatomy, physiology, behavioural traits, emotions and most critically microbats’ fluid needs and the importance of facilities that enable strong flight practice prior to release. She shared her considerable experience with the multiple microbat species found in Southern Queensland, her home base. Rachel had an absolutely delightful presentation manner with an appealing little laugh as she passed on so much knowledge in the short time available. Her encouragement to do the very best for these highly evolved mammals was electric. The microbat species share embryonic diapause with some macropod families, they possess remarkable capacity to slow down or shut down to conserve their energy requirements and they are an important biodiversity asset through their rôle in insect control.

### Bat Love by Barb Lyons

Little Asha is just 4 years old but she has a passion for bats. Her interest began when she came into the room where I was feeding some young ones and saw those cute eyes looking at her, it remained even when she noticed those (sometimes creepy looking) feet.

When her Mum takes her to Wingham Brush to see the evening fly-out, she not only calls out: “I love you!”, she gives them names. And in her spare time she likes to draw them. You probably can’t see

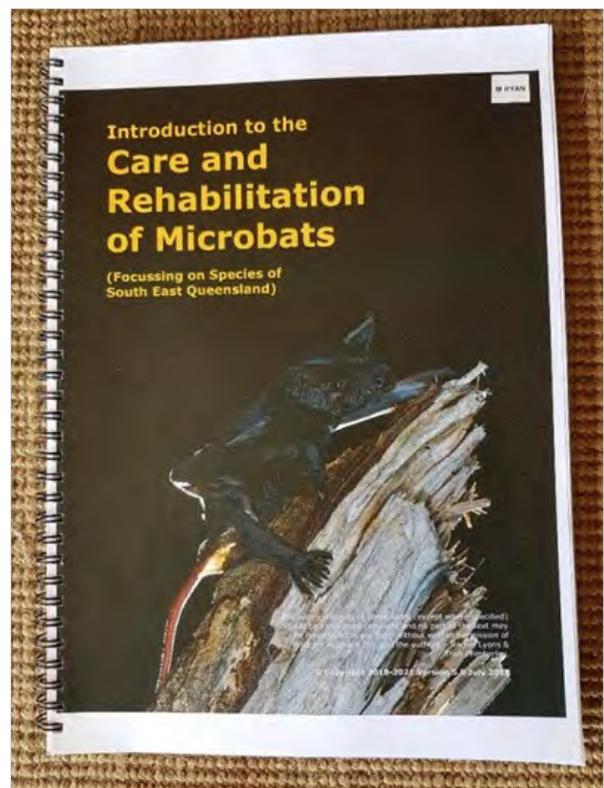


We would like to thank WIRES’ Lib Ruytenberg for the major part of the course organisation, and Sandy Norris from NRWC for her Treasury work. The catering included beautiful home-made cakes, biscuits and slices and a self-serve lunch allowed participants to network in the time available. Thanks too to the caterers and other people behind the scenes who worked hard to make this such a successful training event.

Six FAWNA representatives attended at Lismore, and it was a great opportunity for them to have the opportunity to catch up with old friends in the microbat rehabilitation world, or to put faces to names.

Everyone left with renewed enthusiasm and hopefully determination to work towards ways and means to achieve better microbat rehabilitation flight facilities in strategic locations around NSW to ensure we are doing the very best we can for these wildlife patients.

*Meredith Ryan, joined by fellow trainees Jill Eagleton, Yvonne Couper, Margie Howard, Barbara Lyons and Di Woodward.*



the drawing but she has included scallops on the trailing edge of the wings.



Great stuff Asha, we need more like you and your Mum

**Permission given by Asha’s mum to publish these photos.**

## Flying-foxes in trouble from MidCoast NSW into Queensland – Meredith Ryan

Firstly welcome to 2 new Wingham resident members, Paul Hoskinson and Helen Kvelde, who have joined the flying-fox rescue and care team. It is fantastic to have two new vaccinated First Responders particularly in this season which is shaping up as dire for our flying-fox populations.

From 1 July until 2 October, FAWNA has responded to 141 flying-fox incidents with pretty ordinary results. As a result of the severest drought to hit the Mid North Coast in decades there are severe food shortages and it is believed many of the pregnant females have aborted their young due to malnutrition. Flying-foxes are being seen camping overnight away from their usual large communal camps – found in small groups or alone near a food source whether it be flowering eucalypts, callistemon and the like, or fruit ripening on backyard fruit trees. This is bringing them closer to people, to barbed wire fences and entanglements which can be really tricky if one is to leave the fence intact and not cause further harm to these animals. The sub adult Black Flying-fox pictured is in rehabilitation being treated for wing membrane damage.

Some rescuers have witnessed flying-foxes on the ground eating windfall lemons. Citrus fruit are not normally on a flying-fox's chosen menu. Pictured here is a flying-fox on the ground near Clybucca eating a hybrid citrus fruit, the tangelo. This food shortage appears to start in the FAWNA area and continue up the coast and into Queensland.

We are fearful that this will be a repeat of the dreadful season 2016/2017 when a few starvation months late in 2016 were followed by Heat Stress events early in 2017, decimating the area's normal flying-fox populations. Back then we vowed that FAWNA would attempt to put measures in place that we would be able in some way to provide some help to animals during heat stress times when the temperature is forecast to climb over 41°C and action needs to be taken to prevent mass deaths from heat stress. FAWNA's biggest problem is the lack of rescue responders who are rabies-vaccinated against the Australian Bat Lyssavirus ABL. It is a tough ask to expect members to fund the > \$350 for a course of 3 pre-exposure rabies vaccinations. FAWNA individually, and via the NSW Wildlife Council has been active in attempting to secure some government assistance in reducing the cost to volunteers; without success so far. It seems wrong that a member of the public who gets bitten or scratched by a flying-fox or bat can get a free course of Rabies vaccinations, funded by the Government, but we as First Responders, there to help save threatened species animals and respond to prevent members of the public being put in danger of getting scratched by an animal in trouble, have to pay the full price.

FAWNA has done some positive things to get ready for whatever the drought and heat stress might throw at our flying-fox populations and us as responders. Last month we took delivery of a 1000 litre firefighting trailer registered and ready to give us a misting capability in accessible camps. We recognise this is one trailer, and we have many camps in the FAWNA area likely to "come down" on any given day when temperatures exceed 42°C. It is a start. We have also bought 12 x 5 litre water sprayers and 12 x 2 litre sprayers that can be used in a flying-fox camp heat stress event. Our major shortfall will be the people-power availability to respond.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service Saving Our Species Flying-fox Team has convened a meeting of experienced people from the wildlife field and from state and federal government and the scientific community, to kick start deliberations about what the appropriate responses might be to intervene to address heat stress in flying-fox camps. I will be representing both FAWNA and the NSW Wildlife Council at that meeting on 14 October. The aim is: *"...to find principles of heat-stress intervention on which we can agree, and use these principles to design appropriate site-based intervention for effective evidence-based management of the issue"*.

Everyone involved in any way with flying-fox rescue this year has had a tough time, and FAWNA thanks you for your willingness to drop everything and go, travel long distances without demur to deal with these animals, none of which are in the pink of health, and many of whom have very poor outcomes. The Phone Operators have been terrific too – thank you all for your contribution.



## NORTHERN REPORT by Annette Tang

**PELICAN** My first story is about a Pelican rescue – a poor guy with a completely smashed wing. Luckily for me he had come into a lake area but not so luckily he decided he wasn't coming too close to be captured. Boy was that water cold when I waded out waist deep! I would never have managed to capture him if it wasn't for a nice paddle boarder named Rob who guided the pelican towards me to be able to catch him.

The worst thing was the need to have him euthanased by Macleay Valley Vet as the wing was beyond saving.

**MACROPODS** I have got some pretty good carers in the North happening

Peter McCredden came from the Sydney area 2 years ago and joined FAWNA. Oh My Goodness Me this man has been a godsend to us. He has, at his own expense and hard work, made the most extraordinary shed and joey area, with a release area at the side. He has taken on small joeys and can continue them through to release in his own area.

Peter has been very busy with seven Red-necked wallabies raised from tiny joeys to 8 and 9 kilos and a mix of weight ranges in his care. Thank you Peter, you have been a real asset for the Northern end of FAWNA. Your hard work and devotion to our wildlife is truly wonderful.

I have 6 Eastern grey kangaroos left in my care after Shelly Lata thankfully took our 3 big guys, (Andy, Annie and Ringo, pictured) to slow release at her place at Turner's Flat. As well I have a Red-necked wallaby who came in at below half the weight he should have been; all bone and very sick. Although he is tiny for his age, we got him through and he is now going great guns. He is feeding outside in the enclosure and having his formula, acting like a big boy - just amazing.



The other Eastern greys are going well too - YAY. Carol Riley has a just furred Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Joy Mackay is caring for a beautiful pademelon and a hairless Red-necked wallaby just in. Di Woodward has one Swamp and two Red-necked wallabies. Damian Jones' Red-necked wallaby in care is gaining weight beautifully and its fractured toe is healing well. We have about 20 macs in care in the North right now.

We were pleased to see one of our released Eastern Grey Kangaroos returning for a visit for around a week. You will see from the image he is light on which is an indication of

how our wildlife is faring in our current drought conditions; but he is doing OK and he would have to be at least 70kg.



### FLYING FOXES

Well we all know how sad this subject is, it breaks your heart

As of 1st October we have four at half their normal weight in care at my place, and they cannot stop eating and drinking which is great. They will be okay as we will not release them until they have food out in the wild.

We also have one Black flying-fox, and if any members have one, it would be good to try and buddy them. Please don't hesitate to contact me.



### MAGPIE

I received a healthy Magpie into care which I considered a fledgling, from not too far away. Next day I watched magpie parents tending to their own nestlings in my trees. My new guy started crying and a magpie from our care a few years ago come down, so I put this fledgling out for the magpie to look after hoping it might work. Would you believe this magpie said yep, she took him on and started looking for bugs and worms to feed him. How good is that?



### ECHIDNAS AND OTHERS

Echidnas are on the move for the breeding season. I've moved three away from a dangerous situation and had two who died from being hit by cars. One beautiful female of 3.5 kgs had head a injury, broken beak and hip. Thankfully, she wasn't lactating. A female may have a puggle in a burrow at this time of year meaning it is imperative that healthy Echidnas are put back in the same location where they were found.

Damian is raising a Brush-tailed Phascogale joey who has now opened her eyes and is drinking her formula beautifully and gaining weight. Great work Damian.

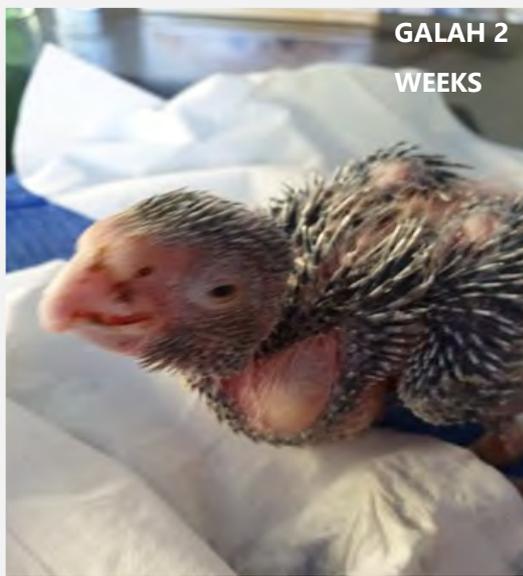
## **BIRDS IN THE CENTRAL REGION by Karen Ledger**

The breeding season has arrived very early this year, which I believe is the effects of the weather being so warm. This has had ramifications on the migratory birds who are leaving later than usual as their food sources are available for longer. It can also encourage them to have a second lot of chicks, which have no chance of being able to be prepared for migration when the time does come. The lack of rain has also had the opposite effect on some of our native birds who are finding it more difficult to find their usual food source. We have had early arrivals of Plovers, Ducklings, Magpies, Lorikeets and Honeyeaters. This means the work load for our bird carers is going to be a heavy one this season, more than likely there will be twice as many nestlings and fledglings abandoned or falling out of nests.

It seems every year there is an influx of one or two types of our native bird species, last year it was Ducklings and the year before it was Tawny frogmouths. I wonder what we will be inundated with this year? Either way we must be prepared for anything and everything.

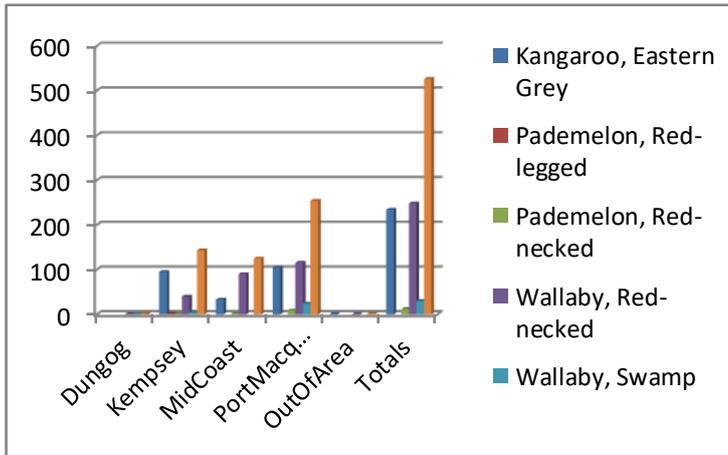
Please be aware that I will be away from the 18<sup>th</sup> October until the 10<sup>th</sup> of November so if you need any supplies be sure to get what you need to cover yourself for that time. Available is Lorikeet mix, Handrearing mix and Insectivore. Mice can be obtained from Tracey Doney at \$3 per bag for 10 mice.

Below are some pictures of some of our patients this year.



## MACROPODS IN THE CENTRAL REGION—Meredith Ryan & Wendy Pfeil

### MACROPODS ADVISED TO FAWNA FROM 1 JANUARY 2019 TO 7 OCTOBER 2019



This chart shows by Local Government Area which macropod species were notified to the 24 hour rescue line for FAWNA's entire area.

It will be no surprise to anyone that Collision—Motor Vehicle is the Encounter Reason for 68% of the 529 total animals in the 9.25 months of 2019. That is 358 collisions and we do not believe that figure includes all the "on board in-pouch joeys".

Rehabilitators in the Central Region mostly have multiple joeys and we seem to be ordering 20 Kg bags of Wombaroo Kangaroo 0.7 milk at an alarming rate. At \$408 or thereabouts delivered it makes the most used milk formula cost around \$5 per litre. Fortunately with our stellar fundraising lately we are able to continue to provide this

milk to members at no cost to them. It is our aim to keep doing this as long as FAWNA's bottom line allows us to meet all our ongoing commitments, and still maintain some capital reserves to use for equipment and special projects. Your committee, and members who assist with fundraising, work hard to help balance the budget but this is getting more and more difficult in this low-interest environment and fewer charity dollars around.

Everyone dealing with Central macropods has been very busy and some have taken on more than they would really like due to the need at the moment. You are all champions. Members who have done macropod training and haven't yet got themselves kitted up, please ask for advice if you need it. It would be great if all trained members who want to rehabilitate macropods came forward if they have not yet applied for their authority to care or had their situation inspected.

We have had three instances of in pouch joeys with deformed feet—OK while they are dependent on their mother, but all three would be unable to make it once they left the pouch. None showed any sign of healed fractures and are a puzzle. We believe these over-large joeys being still pouch bound may have put too much pressure on Mum causing her to be overloaded & unable to avoid collisions with cars.



Four kangaroo joeys receiving a dose of sunshine and access to eating dirt which will help them establish good gut flora.



This Red-Necked Pademelon, named Morris Minor is pictured in Doug McNeill's caring hands at Birdwood.

Photo credit—Colleen Werner

Thank you everyone for your dedication to macropods in the Central area. It has been a bit trying with macropods getting stuck in boggy fast drying out dams and finding themselves in unusual places due to the drought conditions. Regrettably we can't save them all but we do have the privilege of being able to reduce and relieve suffering as an important part of our volunteer work.

## **POSSUMS IN THE CENTRAL REGION—Jill Eagleton**

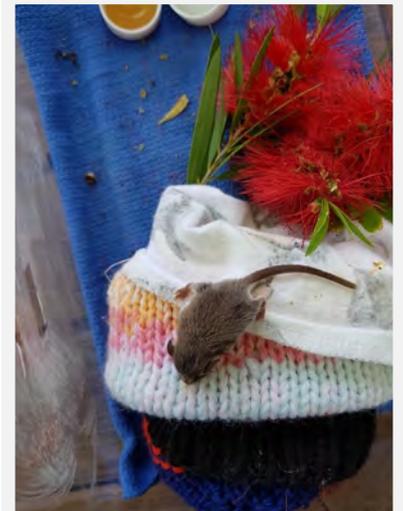
We always worry about saying it is quiet for any species—but at the moment the Central area has very few possums or gliders in rehab. Penn Short has recently transferred a Mountain Brushtail to Colleen Werner, and Yvette has had a pair of Sugar Gliders. Wendy has a Feathertail Glider that first weighed in at 3g, and a Yellow-bellied glider going from 70g to its current weight of 110g. I have 3 brushtailed and a ringtail possum,

We are noticing the effects of the drought conditions on our rehab animals. Twelve months ago I released a pair of squirrel gliders offering support feeding for a short time after release. About 6 months later they came back and hung around for a week or so absolutely starving. I actually discovered them because they “broke into” my rehab shed, climbing in through the whirlygig roof ventilators and absolutely trashed my mealworm farm. It took them a few days to discover they could get back out up the walls and exit through the whirlygig. I was pleased to see they weren’t humanised because they took off for the tall timbers as soon as I came close. They haven’t been seen since and we are hoping it is because we had a little bit of rain and the moths have started hatching out.

It is not only the lack of moths that is a worry—it is getting harder and harder to collect the insects that so many of our wildlife species need for their balanced diet.



*Photo left:  
Cage set up for the  
Yellow-bellied Glider  
pictured on our cover*



*Photo right:  
3g Feathertail Glider  
dwarfed by its bottle-  
brush flowers*



Yancoal at Gloucester kindly shared some photos of nest boxes provided in their remediation works. Pictured above Squirrel Gliders, and to the right a Brushtail Possum trying out a Kookaburra nest box for size! We know they are opportunists, but this takes the cake!



## REPTILES ACROSS THE REGION—Andrew Ryan

The following statistics have been extracted from the records for calendar year 2019 January to September for Northern, Central and Southern Areas.

Except where indicated the reported rescues are fairly evenly distributed between the three areas.

Amphibians, 2 Tree Frog Green, 1 Tree Frog Bleating (No amphibian reports for Northern area).

Dragon Eastern Bearded: 2 Reports with 1 died and 1 released (No rescues for Northern Area).

Dragon Eastern Water: 8 reports with 5 died and 1 released, 1 no fate and 1 transferred to North Coast Herpetology Group. An interesting story follows about this Dragon.

Lizard Eastern Blue-tongued: 51 Reports but unfortunately only 13 released/relocated; the remainder died or were euthanased generally due to dog attack.

Monitor lace: 24 Reports only one recorded death, 5 were released/relocated and the balance left and observed or inquiry.

Python Carpet, Diamond, Intergrade: 54 Reports, 26 released/relocated, 5 died/euthanased and the balance disappeared before rescue or were inquiry only. We talk about Python ID in the following page.

Snake Unidentified: 18 Reports and unsurprisingly these were either disappeared before rescue or inquiry only.

Snake Bandy Bandy: 1 Report for Central Area only left and observed.

Snake Brown Tree: 2 Reports Central Area only 1 release and 1 disappeared before rescue.

Snake Common (Green) Tree: 46 Reports 22 released/relocated, 3 died and the balance left and observed or disappeared before rescue.

Snake Eastern Brown: 12 Reports 7 released/relocated, 1 died and the balance disappeared before rescue.

Snake Eastern Small-eyed: 1 report Central Area died from bird attack.

Snake Red-bellied Black: 47 reports 15 released/relocated 3 died, 18 disappeared before rescue and 11 inquiries.

Swamp-snake (Marsh) Black-bellied: 5 Reports 2 relocated/released, 1 died, 1 inquiry and 1 disappeared before rescue. (No reports from Northern area.)

Tortoise, Eastern Long-necked: 6 Reports 5 relocated/released and 1 Euthanased by vet. (No reports from Northern area.)

Turtle, Loggerhead 1 Report and unfortunately it died after transfer to expert care. (from Central area)

In total for the period 282 Reports there are 6 NULLS meaning their fate has not been recorded. It will be interesting to compare the figures with the coming months when snakes are out and about enjoying the Spring and Summer food flush and over-anxious humans want them gone. Thanks in anticipation to our small list of snake handlers in FAWNA.

**Eastern Water Dragon finds a new home** At the end of August FAWNA received a call from East Port Vet who had taken into custody an Eastern Water Dragon. The FAWNA Phonie managed to catch Meredith when she was on her way home from Port Macquarie. She agreed to collect the Dragon so turned around and drove back to the Vet. It turns out that the "owner" of the dragon had been taken into custody by the Police leaving the dragon behind in a motel room in Port Macquarie. After a few days the motelier, concerned that the dragon had received no food or care, took the reptile to the vet, who naturally called FAWNA. Not knowing the provenance of the dragon, Meredith was faced with the dilemma of what to do with it. The Port Police were very co-operative once they realized the conversation about a "dragon" was a serious one, and they put Meredith on to Kempsey Gaol with the contacts to ring to find further and better particulars about the dragon from the "owner", still held in the Corrections system. It was established the dragon was not being held under any Animal Keep-ers Licence and its encounter location was not disclosed. To cut this long story short, a National Parks and Wildlife Service Wildlife Licensing Team member arranged with the local herpetological group to ballot out the dragon and it has now found a nice permanent home in lovely housing with a NCHG member. Lots of phone calls, lots of emails, lots of visits to Pet Barn for crickets and woodies, and lots of mealworms while arrange-ments were made to rehome this reptile. FAWNA thanks all involved for their combined efforts to give this reptile the option of permanent care in a good home rather than euthanasia.—The motelier, East Port Vets, FAWNA, the NSW Police, Corrections NSW, NPWS Wildlife Licensing, and the North Coast Herpetology Group.



The Ryans got more than they bargained for when they inspected this limbfall from fierce winds. Comfortably nestled in the fallen limb were two healthy and unharmed Lace Monitors of very distinctly different patterning.



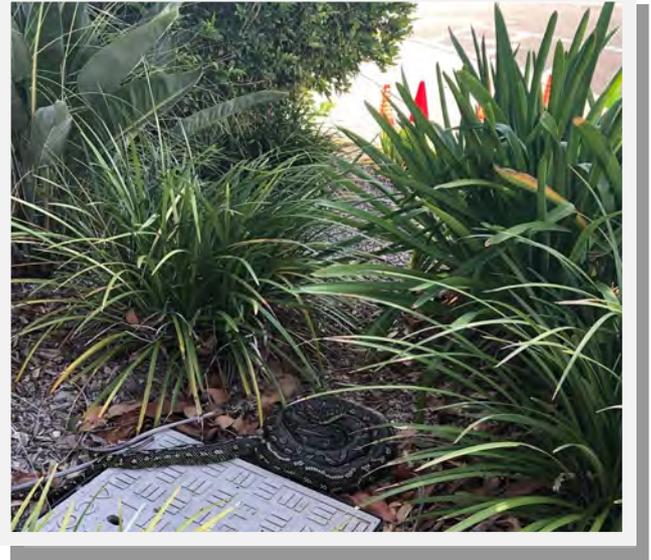
**LETS TALK ABOUT PYTHON ID —Andrew & Meredith Ryan**

This intergrade python was sighted at the Wingham Brush by our friend and Public Fund Trustee, John Stockard.

(Note the two engorged paralysis ticks on the python's head)



Discovered by staff at Columba Cottage Early Day Care Centre, FAWNA was called to relocate this intergrade python to a close location in Port Macquarie. Rescuer Andrew was a bit disturbed to find the local waterhole at a small fraction of its normal capacity. Photo Courtesy CCEDCC



Is it a Carpet, is it a Diamond or is it an Intergrade? In the FAWNA area you are most likely to come across only an Intergrade Python—not a Diamond and not a Carpet—even though it may appear more like one than the other, throwing to the carpet markings or to the diamond pattern but usually including both. Most intergrades include both markings as you will see from the three photos on this page..

The Intergrade python shown below was rescued by Ross Trevelyan and released not far away at the Ryans property. "We're not sure what alerted us to this little guy's presence but he stayed in that Grevillia for nearly a week before moving on—some 6 months after he was released as quite a little tacker." The Ryans.

We quote in italics from this link <https://www.aussiepythons.com/forum/threads/faq-what-is-an-intergrade.54862/>



.....The best known of these is found in mid coast NSW. Starting just north of Coffs Harbour the Coastal Carpet starts its transformation into the Diamond Python which finally fully appears at around Newcastle and extends to just over the Vic border. When looking at *morelia spilota* found in the area from Coffs to Newcastle you can see they share both characteristics. The closer to Coffs, the more they resemble the Carpet that they started from. The closer to Newcastle, the more they resemble the Diamond that they are slowly turning into. The prettiest I have seen in this area occurs around Port Macquarie, and IMO can be far prettier than any Diamond I have ever seen, as well as being far more hardier in Captivity

Even though *morelia spilota* are deemed the same species by DNA, each subspecies can still be identified by slight variations in the DNA. This also includes the intergrades which have been found to differ from their originals.

The best thing people can do to learn is to get off their computers, get into a car and travel around Australia and actually learn where your favourite species are found and to look at natural changes as they occur.

We have included this brief article because a FAWNA Phone Operator when told the rescue was of an Intergrade Python said "I have never heard of them".

A python released at Ryans took about 5 seconds to scoot up to "safety" in a jacaranda.

Photo Meredith Ryan



Acknowledged to Sydney Morning Herald—Wednesday 9 October 2019

## Other mammals from Down South—Cheryl Winner

The southern area has been quiet. It is a bit disturbing that we haven't had any Antechinus or Brush-tailed phascogales coming into care during the winter mating season. Pam Farquhar has two juvenile Northern Brown bandicoots. I had a call to respond to a Spotted-tailed quoll resting in a tree. The concerned member of the public thought the quoll was sick. The Quoll male was not sick, but the resident was missing three chickens. The quoll was supporting some battle scars around his face. After I took a photo, I offered advice to the resident. Later just before dark I received the following text .....

*"Hi Cheryl, He's just run his happy little butt down the tree and is making his way up my driveway like it's just another night. Thank you for all the help and information. I just found out from my neighbour that her six bantam chooks are gone missing seems he's had his fill and is on his way. Wish the Quoll luck and thanks again. Thank you to everyone for caring".*



Spotted-tailed Quoll  
Cheryl Winner

## Macropods in the Southern area—Jodie Isaac

All carers have at least one or more macropod in care at present. From little ones through to prerelease. Marina our eastern grey release site has 4 eastys and one red-necked wallaby. With 6 more joining them soon. It is hard work with the eastern greys such a long time they are in care. I appreciate all the hard yards you guys do.

We have a Pademelon, a swampy, 10 eastern greys and 21 red necks in care at the moment.

Lots of undernourished ones are coming in demonstrating how the drought is affecting all our wildlife.



## and Possums and Gliders

2 Squirrel gliders

2 Sugar gliders

12 Brushtails

1 Mountain Brushtail

8 Ringtails

Please let me know if you are able to take possums or gliders for care or release—we are finding most

starving and overweight.

Please keep in contact and let me know what you have in care.



Ringtail Possum—Photo Jodie Isaac

## IN THE NEWS: Where are all the mutton birds? Birdwatchers concerned by delayed arrival of migratory short-tailed shearwaters in Victoria

ABC South West Vic By Daniel Miles Updated 4-10-2019 at 12:39pm

**Birdwatchers fear for the fate of thousands of short-tailed shearwaters, also known as mutton birds, which failed to arrive in south-west Victoria at the usual time after their annual migration from the northern hemisphere.**

Key points:

For the past 30 years, short-tailed shearwaters, known as mutton birds, have arrived at an island near Port Fairy, Victoria, in late September

So far, only a handful of the migratory birds have turned up, out of a usual colony of 40,000

Climate variability or food availability in the northern hemisphere may have delayed the birds' arrival

Each year, hundreds of thousands of short-tailed shearwaters descend on Victoria's coastline to breed following a mammoth journey which takes two months to complete.

The birds spend the northern summer around Alaska, before travelling 15,000 kilometres to Australia where they arrive with precision.

For the past 30 years, the south-west Victorian population has arrived at Griffiths Island, near Port Fairy, a day either side of September 22. But this year, the date came and went without the usual flurry of activity.

Peter Barrand, president of Birdlife Warrnambool, said he had basically set his watch by the shearwaters' arrival for the past three decades.

**PHOTO:** (Supplied: Eric Woehler)

The slow start to the season has him concerned.

**"It's extremely worrying — are we looking at an extinction event happening before our very eyes?" Mr Barrand said.**

"We couldn't find any at first, but further investigation found there were small numbers coming in. "For a colony that's something like 40,000 strong — a handful of birds is a significant decline.

Griffiths Island is connected to the seaside town of Port Fairy and sits at the mouth of the Moyne River. It hosts one of the largest visiting populations of shearwaters in Australia, with the majority of birds nesting on offshore islands where they are safe from predators and human disturbance.

While birds arriving underweight and exhausted isn't uncommon, the scale of this year's delay is what's most concerning to birdwatchers.

"Anecdotal reports indicate that birds haven't turned up anywhere else. This is not just an isolated incident at Griffith Island," Mr Barrand said. "It's happening right along the coast of Victoria and in Tasmania too.

**"You make a significant impact on the population, [then] it'll be a struggle for the birds to recover their numbers, and if this trend continues we're certainly looking at an extinction event."**

A spokesperson for Victoria's Environment Department said short-tailed shearwaters typically returned to colonies at Port Fairy and Port Campbell in late September to early October, but so far, only small numbers of birds had been sighted at either location.

It said the possible causes were unknown, but there were several factors that could have delayed the birds' arrival, such as climate variability and food availability in the northern hemisphere.

The department is liaising with agencies in Tasmania to understand whether a similar phenomenon is occurring in other colonies.

The c-word

There have been numerous reports of bird starvation events in the northern hemisphere over the past five years, including several reports in Alaska and even New York.

According to research published in the journal Science, there are now 2.9 billion — or about 29 per cent — fewer birds in North America now than in 1970.

Alaska's government-backed National Park Service has reported massive seabird die-offs, also known as wrecks, for five consecutive years.

It's sparked concern in the southern hemisphere. "Something's obviously gone drastically wrong in the arctic — whatever the shearwaters have been feeding on has failed to appear," Mr Barrand said. "Autopsies have shown the deaths were all attributed to starvation. And that's the worrying part about it.



## Where are all the mutton birds? Cont'd from previous page

"What's gone ... in the northern hemisphere to stop these birds feeding as they normally do? Is it the dreaded climate change or some other event that's occurred?"

Philip DuGuesclin, a former biodiversity officer with the Environment Department in Port Fairy, is also taking a conservative approach. He's spent the past three decades working with and observing the Griffiths Island shearwater population and shares Mr Barrand's concern. But Mr DuGuesclin believes it isn't time to panic just yet.

"Reports we've had down the eastern seaboard have been that there's very few to none arriving, but we have also had a report that thousands are streaming past Gabo Island, presumably heading in this direction," Mr DuGuesclin said.

### **"Are they the seabird equivalent of the canary in the mine if it comes to global warming? I don't know."**

"The concern we have is that with all these thousands of birds streaming past Gabo Island, they might just bypass Griffiths Island and head straight down to the Antarctic convergence before coming back to breeding.

"If they're not arriving on the island, it could be because they aren't in breeding condition." But for Warrnambool's local bird-watching community, that's a wake-up call of the highest order. "People have really got to sit up and take notice of this — it's a really significant event," Mr Barrand said. "It's looking like it's an increasing trend over the last five years, but this is a very, very serious situation."



Pictured left to right: Ashley and Christine Nolan and Andrew Ryan lining up and driving in the first of the star posts in the Nolan Macropod Release pen currently under construction at Pappinbarra. This much needed facility will include a nursery pen and shelter within the larger enclosure. This will provide a secure environment for the smaller joeys while they "find their feet" in rehab care.

FAWNA's thanks goes to the NSW Wildlife Council who made this project possible by a successful grant in the 2018-2019 Rehabilitator Enclosure and Equipment Grants Scheme. We also thank Roads and Maritime Services whose funding to NWC makes these grants possible.

The 2019-2020 NWC Rehabilitator Grants Scheme saw successful grantees in Di Woodward and Geoff Roggenkamp with \$2000 for extensions to their macropod nursery pen set up.

Congratulations to both those FAWNA members for their foresight and for getting their grant applications in early.



The Nolan Joey yard—a work in progress

Photo credit—Meredith Ryan

## Other News from NWC

Meredith Ryan and Rod Miller have been re-elected by the FAWNA membership at the Annual General Meeting as the Primary and Alternate FAWNA delegates to the NSW Wildlife Council. Meredith undertakes a number of positions on the Council including, Secretary, Public Officer, Insurance Officer and Minutes Secretary. It does cause her some difficulty to prioritise her competing responsibilities to both FAWNA and the NWC. Rod is NWC's Webmaster and this rôle keeps him occupied as well.

NWC groups have done preliminary work on the development of a Marine Reptile Code of Practice and work will start soon on developing a COP for birds in rehabilitation. We will keep members informed as work progresses on these Codes.

A new look NWC Newsletter will be coming out soon and a link to it will be given to FAWNA members. Consider contributing to future issues.

We are still awaiting release of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Strategy under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2018-2019 FAWNA ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING UPDATES (in italics)

FAWNA volunteers have worked together harmoniously and well to meet good outcomes for wildlife during the twelve month period.

The FAWNA region on NSW's mid-north coast is extremely dry as is the rest of NSW and the short to mid-term prognosis is not good for drought-relieving rains. It presages a bleak spring and summer period for our wildlife and we are fearful of heat-stress events.

FAWNA member Christine Nolan was successful in her \$2000 grant application to the NSW Wildlife Council for the cost of a dedicated macropod release facility in the lower Pappinbarra Valley and this is nearly completed. *Di Woodward and Geoff Roggenkamp were successful in their application in the 2019-2020 Grants round for extensions to their macropod nursery pen and yard – well done Di and Geoff.*

**Biodiversity Conservation Act [BCA] and Regulations** – The BC Act Wildlife Strategy documents were released for comment with a 6 week submission period. There has been no final announcement of future plans under the BCA for wildlife licensing of groups and FAWNA's licence has been extended to 30 June 2020.

**Finances and Fundraising:** FAWNA has continued to offer members their FAWNA-purchased wildlife caring foodstuffs at no cost and this year's improved bottom line should ensure that this situation can continue for the immediate future. Donations through the year totalled \$24300 and fundraising after costs netted FAWNA \$14547.

Significant activities included Tomra Return and Earn, Bunnings Sausage Sizzles, Macleay Garden Ramble and Kendall Op Shop. FAWNA's Night Out dinner and Lord Howe Island holiday raffle was our major event for the year bringing in \$11,000 and our thanks go in particular to the major sponsors, Eastern Air Services, Eastern Tour Services, John Oxley Motors, Billabong Zoo and Wildlife Park, The Westport Club and to the generosity of all the supporting organisations and businesses; Louise Moore, FAWNA's organiser extraordinaire and her helpers did a fantastic job to make this fundraiser an enjoyable and profitable night.

Former FAWNA member and Possum Co-ordinator, the Late Dr. Kathy Davis saw fit to remember FAWNA with a \$5000 bequest from her Estate. Many other donors of large and small amounts ensured through their kindnesses to FAWNA that we can continue our work and invest in some infrastructure and equipment to help members in their wildlife work.

**Bryce Laut Member's Achievement Award 2018** was presented to Cheryl Winner for her dedication to a large number and very broad range of wildlife in the Southern Region. Cheryl throughout the year monitored the FAWNA records system ensuring records are up to date, and she provided "buddy" capacity to those members without internet access for their records input. A most enjoyable award presentation and Christmas function was held at the Johns River Hall. Congratulations to Cheryl for her award on her quiet and considerable achievements for wildlife, for FAWNA's wildlife rescue "hotline" and for the wildlife records system.

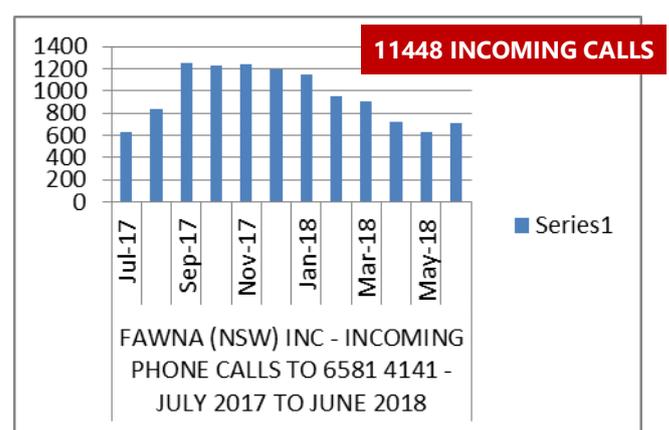
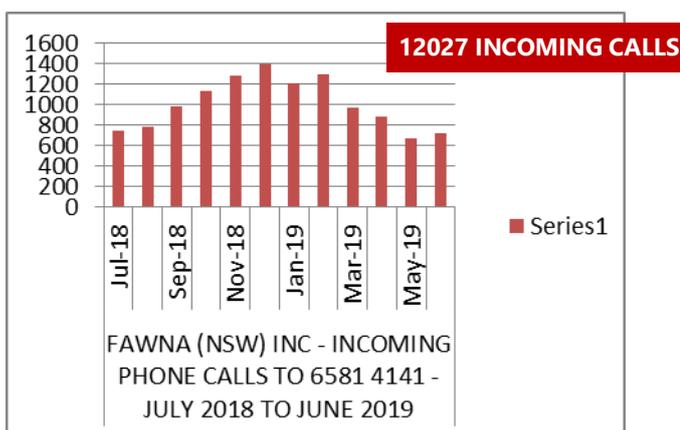
**FAWNA's Rescue Telephone** is a testament to Di Woodward and her assistants' [Cheryl Winner and Pam Farquhar] superb co-ordination of a team of "phonies", our volunteers who so devotedly keep our telephone open to the public 24x7x365 days a year. There were an increased number of incoming calls to over 12,000 to the FAWNA wildlife rescue line and the charts below show the seasonal variations in the number of incoming calls per month over two years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

**Our Volunteers:** All FAWNA's volunteers contribute in so many different ways to what makes our organisation the vibrant and successful one it is. They are the ones that make FAWNA what it is under the guidance of strong management from your committee and species co-ordinators. FAWNA responds quickly and efficiently to wildlife rescue calls, its volunteers show professionalism, aptitude, care and dedication in their dealings with injured and orphaned wildlife, often with less than optimal outcomes but with humanity and understanding. The good outcomes outweigh the not so good ones. That is the nature of what we do, dealing with injured, orphaned and at need native animals.

Volunteers please stand proud and accept a Thank You for a job very well done. The year has brought many challenges to all of us and we have weathered them well.

We give a special Thank You to FAWNA's Honorary Auditor, Max Graham for his continued service.

**Our Vets:** Without our vets and veterinary staff FAWNA could not carry on as it does. As part of the wildlife rescue team effort we will be sending all Vets FAWNA's particular thanks for their dedicated fauna work, often on a pro-bono basis.



## School Strike 4 Climate—Kempsey

FAWNA exhibited at the inaugural School Strike 4 Climate at Kempsey at the invitation of organisers and members Nona Harvey and Gavin Bamforth. The school children present completed a passport, visiting exhibitors' stands to learn their individual message about the effects of Climate Change.

Pictured here, listening to the speakers on the day are l to r Eden Lindley and Di Woodward

*Photo Meredith Ryan*



# Thank you to all members and contributors to FAWNA's Newsletter, Spring 2019

Picture below Thank you Yancoal, Gloucester for sharing this pic of a Masked owl and Nest Box.



Black Flying-fox pup—Nettie Tang

