

THANK YOU TO FOOD4WILDLIFE AND NEST BOX APPEAL DONORS



15 DECEMBER 2019

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

An update on the program

On 16th November, 2019 FAWNA (NSW) Inc., the volunteer group licensed by NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, launched its Food4Wildlife and Nest Box Appeal via its Web Platform.

The area of operation in MidCoast, Port-Macquarie-Hastings and Kempsey shires, some 18,000 sq km had been severely impacted by bushfires that spread relentlessly through huge swathes of wildlife habitat.

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needed by all the wildlife species that were already suffering the worst drought in recorded history.

As the group licensed for all wildlife species for

rescue, rehabilitation and release, FAWNA knew it had to step up and do something to ensure

survival of the free-living native animals impacted so badly by the fires. As a volunteer group FAWNA did not have the monetary or human resources to mount an ambitious Food4Wildlife program alone, but between us all

we have done just that. We have moved mountains—mountains of bags of feed for kangaroos, wallabies, possums, birds and a whole heap of other native animals.

In just a few weeks there are over 30 food collection stations spread over the FAWNA area where the community can collect macropod pellets and wild bird seed to put out for their hungry local fauna.

The program kicked off with some significant donations from Wildlife Rescue Sunshine Coast and The Rescue Collective giving FAWNA the confidence to know this program could continue for the long term if necessary until the rains come and habitat starts its slow restoration process.

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Owlet Nightjar story

The Owlet Nightjar chick pictured was rescued with one sibling from a smouldering log in the Hollisdale fires. The chick was one of two and there was no sign of the parent Nightjars leaving no alternative but to bring the chicks into care; sadly we didn't manage to get the smaller one through but the remaining chick pictured left is starting the process of working out that food is not found at the

end of forceps.

Pappinbarra friend of FAWNA, Trevor Smith, has made a beautiful Owl-

et Nightjar nest box from recycled hardwood; it will go to be the Nightjar's home once ready to be released back to Hollisdale area.



Owlet Nightjar chick—just check out those eyelashes!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Major donors

- ◆ Wildlife Rescue Sunshine Coast
- ◆ The Rescue Collective
- ◆ IFAW International Fund for Animal Welfare
- ◆ Animal Referral Hospital—Central Coast
- ◆ Animal Referral Hospital—Canberra
- ◆ & numerous fabulous donors of materials, pouches, foods and goodies.

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Release of Brushtail Possum burned in the fires near Port Macquarie



BRUSHTAIL POSSUM RETURNS TO HER HOME TURF

Carer Wendy watches while Enid’s nest box lid is affixed. Enid’s exit is blocked by a towel while the box is secured to the tree.

A Mountain Brushtail Possum female was brought to FAWNA on 9/11/19 by a RFS volunteer fighting the fire on John Oxley Drive near Port Macquarie. With road closures it was the fastest option to get swift treatment for burnt paws. Luckily for the possum the burns were not severe and with thanks to expert veterinary and rehabilitation care “Enid” was able to grow back good clean skin, and receive the vet’s OK for release. Despite the grim looking surrounds there is plenty of leaf for her in the immediate vicinity and with a snug nest box and supervision of the property owner she should be a survivor.



Thanks to RFS volunteer, carer Wendy, Vet Sarah, nest box-maker Trevor, box installer Andrew and property owner, Greg, this possum has her best chance back in her home turf.



These are our Wildlife Heroes, FAWNA’s First Responders—all volunteers, unfunded, turning their homes over to the needs of injured, orphaned and harmed wildlife 24 x 7 x 365 days per year.

Your support makes their dedicated unpaid work possible.

While licensed wildlife rescue and rehabilitation groups in partnership with their veterinarians are trained and equipped to deal with wildlife that are burned in the fires, the reality is that many more perish directly as a result of the fires and it is the lucky few that actually come into rehabilitation care.

Burns are painful and there is a limit to the length of time that animals can be administered pain relief before the medications cause irreparable damage to internal organs. All burns are assessed by veterinarians and all rehabilitation care must be undertaken to the standards set out in the various NSW Rehabilitation and Species Codes of Practice. Animal

Welfare considerations come to the fore and it is for these reasons that not a lot of animals are able to go through the rehabilitation process.

We do have our successes nevertheless and we wish to thank the large number of people who donated veterinary items and dressings to help us look after the animals in our care. Particular mention is made of IFAW, International Fund for Animal Welfare who immediately paid the cost of expensive Flamazine Burn Cream ordered on prescription to treat our burn victims. Green Cross Vets in Port Macquarie made up carer burn treatment packs. The Animal Referral Hospital—Central Coast purchased

to our order the important burn dressings and many items to help us with our mainly marsupial patients. The Animal Referral Hospital—Canberra also sent up a bunch of veterinary supplies.

Vets without exception have been extraordinarily generous. Without that positive and timely assistance we would have had a real struggle dealing.

We acknowledge the hard and confronting work of our volunteers that have the Animal Welfare category on their Firearms licences. Their work has saved much pain and suffering of burned animals out in the field that have no chance of any future quality of life..



We have received our first Nest Box Order

Our nest box project co-ordinator, Louise, advised the arrival of 174 flat-pack nest boxes for:

- Brush-tail Possum
- Microbat
- Glider
- Yellow-bellied Glider
- Small Parrot
- Feathertail Glider

with
Hinges & hardware
Mounting Kits
At a cost of \$7560

We are looking to forge partnerships with local craft groups and others to help with putting these together and weather-proofing them. In each area we will be consulting with ecologists and other people to get the very best locations where wildlife homes are most needed for the various hollow-dependent species

So, not only are you generous donors helping to Feed the Wildlife you are helping provide them homes while habitat is restored post fires.



The first delivery of nest boxes

From left to right—as shown on the list in the left hand column

A PAPPINBARRA LOCAL WHO LOST EVERYTHING IN THE FIRES IN A THANK YOU NOTE TO FAWNA ON 14TH DECEMBER SAID

“THE FIRE HAS BEEN A BLOW TO US ALL AND THE LOSS OF HABITAT AND CHANGES IN FOREST TYPES IS GOING TO HAVE ONGOING IMPLICATION FOR THOSE OF US CONCERNED WITH WILDLIFE.....

BUT I LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY. WITH LOTS OF SUPPORT AND KINDNESS FROM ALL AROUND.

MY BEST WISHES AND THANKS.

A.

Water4Wildlife Campaign a Great Success

FAWNA’s sister group, Koala Conservation Australia that runs the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, has had success beyond their wildest dreams in their GoFundMe campaign to construct water stations that would suit a multiple of wildlife species and that can be placed in the field.

FAWNA has been encouraging the community to put water out in safe drown-proof containers and we have been delighted

with the Facebook responses from people mentioning birds rarely seen in their area enjoying the water. Pictures of a granddaughter and grandmother putting out food and water for their local fauna show how well our communities have embraced this simple concept to help wildlife. There have been so many comments of support and stories that show how valued our urban and rural wildlife really is.



The Koala Hospital Water Station prototype

Ashy the Swamp Wallaby



When conditions are right with sufficient food resources available for this Swamp Wallaby fire victim to be released, she will be easily recognized by the Wallabi Point locals who have been monitoring her progress in FAWNA member, Megan’s care. She has been vet checked as OK and the loss of a significant part of her burned ear should not hold her back.



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ABN: 65 455 270 251

ACNC: Registered Charity

Help needed for all wildlife groups in NSW

Anyone who can help other wildlife groups in NSW please go to

www.nwc.org.au to find contacts for your local rescue group. Most have website donate facilities and all are in need of funds to carry wildlife through rehabilitation until weather conditions improve.

From the FAWNA President, Meredith Ryan

This thank you to our fabulous donors during November has been hastily put together to give you all some idea of how your funds are being expended to directly help wildlife. We know that is what our donors expect and we want you to know that we are delivering as promised.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who are pulling out all stops For Australian Wildlife Needing Aid.



FAWNA NSW INC
FOR AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE NEEDING AID

Flying-foxes heat, fire and drought stressed

Mass baby bat deaths threatening the future of forests as effects of drought and bushfires mount

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-14/mass-baby-bat-deaths-from-drought-and-bushfire/11793826>

Wildlife Rescue groups in NSW are banding together to help each other cope with the large number of orphaned and abandoned flying-fox pups and some are being transferred to carers in Queensland to help solve the very real problem

FAWNA answered the call for help from Hunter Wildlife Recue and Wildlife in Need of Care and has taken in 31 pups. Pictured here are some bundles of baby bats, all suffering heat stress and effects of abandonment.



Boxes of baby bats in transit from the Hunter to the Mid North Coast



FAWNA carer, Amanda, coped overnight with feeding 17 flying-fox pups and note 2 of the 4 microbats in her care in her left hand while she supervises the megabat feed time on 14-12-19

Food4Wildlife collection points

These take many forms including a converted outdoor cat house repurposed to a F4W station at Pappinbarra to this swisho locked arrangement at Temagog in the Kempsey Shire after our first F4W bins were “nicked” by someone. We felt if they were that needy we would simply replace but making the replacements a bit harder to steal (thanks to Yvonne’s handy-person skills). Of course we couldn’t leave the dog on guard, but

In the Kempsey LGA Margie and Yvonne are our main co-ordinators with lots of support from individuals, local businesses, community halls and other FAWNA members.

In Port Macquarie-Hastings Andrew and Meredith, supported by Rod and Jill and Yvette are keeping collection points

stocked. We are indebted to the Hastings Co-op for offering multiple locations as collection points.

In MidCoast, Paul supported by Pam and Gail and various members and outsiders is covering a large area with Vets, businesses, community halls and individuals all making sure Food4Wildlife meets its aim of getting food out to hungry native animals.

Fodder supply outlets have co-operated by buying in and reserving for FAWNA pre-paid large quantities of the preferred wildlife foodstuffs.

It has been a massive effort and we are unashamedly proud that we have pulled it off.

