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# Newsletter September 2023

[www.fawna.org.au](http://www.fawna.org.au)

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## President's Report (from FAWNA 2023 Annual Report)



It is my privilege to present this report on 12 months' activities of our volunteer wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release group, F.A.W.N.A. (NSW) Inc., *For Australian Wildlife Needing Aid*. The year continued from the previous two years with challenges that made it difficult to maintain normal operations, meetings, training courses and any face-to-face activities.

Despite all challenges FAWNA managed to focus its training program somewhat back on track and offered eleven training opportunities to all members, ducking and weaving around outbreaks of COVID-19, to ensure we were not putting any member at an unacceptable risk. Courses run were:

August	22	Flying-fox Rescue & Care	Jacquie Maisey, Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers
November	21	Rescue & Immediate Care	J Eagleton, M Ryan, G Whitwell
January	35	Advanced Marsupial	Derek Spielman
March	20	Rescue & Immediate Care	J Eagleton, M Ryan, G Whitwell
April	20	Possums & Gliders	J Isaac & C Winner
May	19	Macropods	M Ryan and W Pfeil
June	18	Rescue & Immediate Care	J Eagleton, M Ryan, G Whitwell
		RFS Bushfire Training	Rural Fire Service

FAWNA expresses its gratitude to WIRES for the Grant that waived the normal training fees to attend the WIRES courses listed. The on-line option meant members at risk from COVID could train at their own pace in their home surrounds.

**New South Wales Wildlife Council** representation by FAWNA saw the nominated representative, Meredith Ryan, re-elected to the positions of Secretary, Public Officer and Insurance Officer, and the Alternate Delegate, Rod Miller, continued as Webmaster for the Council.

The Council offered a 2022-23 equipment and enclosure grants program that is enormously helpful to rehabilitation groups giving them the chance to bid for funding for projects that might be unaffordable to members. The successful grants awarded to FAWNA and Members valued at \$8285.00 were:

- F.A.W.N.A. (NSW) INC \$4,000.00 5 X 4.8 X2M Multi species demountable aviary
- Fernance, Kelly \$2,885.00 5x2.4x2M Multi species demountable aviary
- Winner, Cheryl \$1,400.00 Brinsea TLC40 Advance EX Intensive Care Unit

*We acknowledge the First Nations people across the areas on which FAWNA's work takes place as the traditional custodians of the land and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.*



*Top Left: Grant aviary located in the Gloucester region*

*Top Right: Powerful Owl recovering from trauma in grant aviary*



*Left: Intensive Care Unit for mainly marsupial rehabilitation*

**Executive and administrative position changes and achievements in media, reporting and communication:** The elected Treasury role was declared vacant just two months into the incumbent's term due to an interstate relocation. FAWNA was most grateful when committee member, Stan Bolden, agreed to take on the Treasury task. Any new position in our organisation is a steep learning curve, and an Executive position brings with it enormous responsibilities. Our new Treasurer has excelled himself in the position ensuring all systems are in place, including a new accounting package, and all FAWNA's finances are properly accounted for to a standard that will satisfy all the federal and state agencies we report to.

The former Treasurer's partner had accepted the Membership Secretary position and due to the interstate move that also fell vacant and has been filled by existing committee members Yvonne Couper and Margaret Howard. FAWNA is grateful that both positions were filled by existing committee members. Both roles have their challenges and are time-consuming and it is with gratitude and relief that both the Treasurer and the Membership secretariat have agreed to continue in the 2023-2024 year.

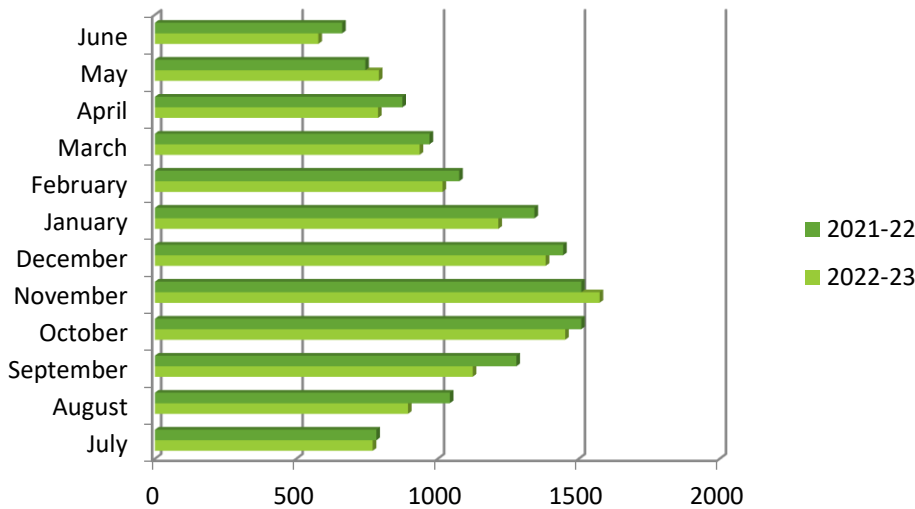
Vice President, Kym Kilpatrick, has taken on the Media role and kept herself very busy writing articles and stories on wildlife and environmental matters for local print and electronic media and social media platforms and was gratified to learn that her informative articles on endemic wildlife were being "scrapbooked" by a local resident. FAWNA has also managed air time on ABC and community Radio and Television spreading the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation message in its various forms.

Rod Miller has completed his development of an integrated member database and he has refined it to assist the phone operators to easily locate where our rescuer members are located by pins on the Google mapping system. Another great innovation is Google mapping by pins of all the locations of motor vehicle collisions affecting wildlife.

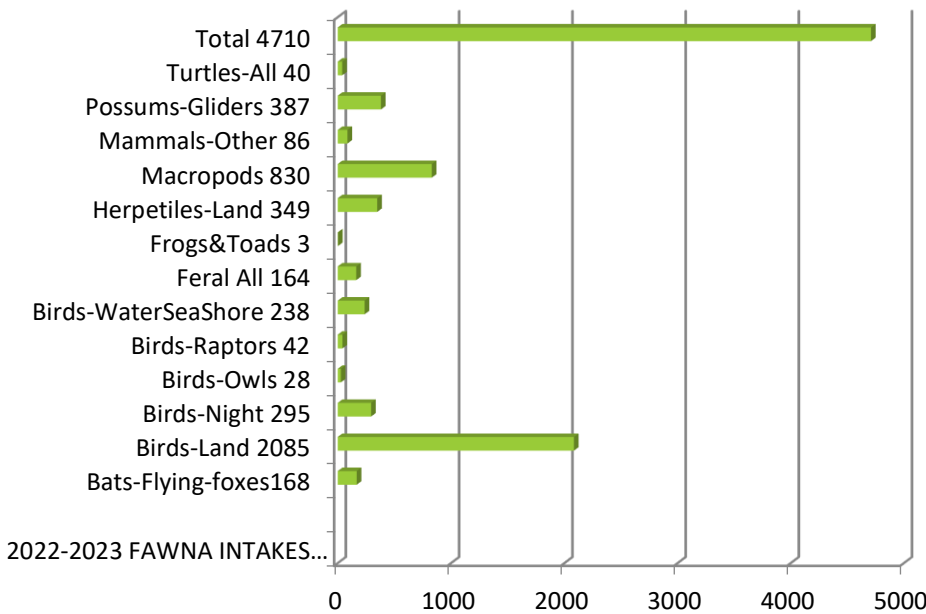
**The FAWNA Wildlife Rescue Hotline:** FAWNA regards itself as fortunate that it has a band of willing members prepared to act as phone operators to keep its front door, telephone 6581 4141, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. Phone Manager, Amber Hunziker, was supported through her maternity leave by Christine Nolan who took on that onerous position. We are proud that we are able to keep the 24 hour phone roster filled to take calls from members of the public to help wildlife – but it is a huge task and we thank Christine for standing in at short notice, and for Amber to take back the role while being a new mother. What a team! We are so thankful to all those who have taken phone rosters over the 12 months or parts thereof. The sheer volume and back-to-back incoming calls can be very stressful.

The year saw a slight reduction in incoming calls to the rescue “hotline”, 12,525 in 22-23 (blue) compared with 13,239 in 21-22 (red), however the monthly fluctuation was similar with the main variation being a markedly lower volume of calls than those experienced in January, April, August and September 2021 because of the extreme weather and floods in the earlier year.

**Two year monthly comparison of incoming calls to the FAWNA “hotline”:**



A telephone operators’ training workshop was held in Wauchope in February.



**Preliminary wildlife data from the FAWNA wildlife database, not yet verified, indicates 4710 animals were reported to FAWNA for the 2022-2023 year from the following broad species groupings.**

This total is an increase of only 50 animals for the 12 months.

A full analysis of 2022-2023 FAWNA wildlife data is yet to be undertaken and when complete details will be included on the FAWNA webpage.

**Biodiversity Conservation Licence for 2023-2026:** FAWNA was advised by its licensor, Department of Planning and Environment/NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service that it had reached accreditation standards and its first licence under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 would be valid for 3 years from 1 July 2023. An enormous amount of governance scrutiny has been undertaken over the past few years requiring recommendations to be made to the membership for necessary changes to documentation, practices and policies. The Membership understood during the last 12 months that decisions would need to be made by the management team for later ratification by the membership.

**FAWNA’s Nest Box Program partnerships:** New nest box program activity during the reporting period has been managed and executed by Treasurer, Stan Bolden, and except for member-driven installations, usually with a rehabilitation animal being released with a Nest Box, new installations in the reporting period have occurred mainly in the MidCoast LGA.

**FAWNA NEST BOX PROGRAM - MID COAST - 4/2022 TO 6/2023**

Target Species	FAWNA install	FAWNA rehab	Public self-install	Total
Common Brush-tailed Possum	10	62	11	<b>74</b>
Common Ringtail Possum	5	15	11	<b>29</b>
Squirrel & Sugar Glider	18	44	19	<b>78</b>
Feathertail Glider	7	13	9	<b>27</b>
Micro bat	6	16	11	<b>32</b>
Parrot	0	3	2	<b>4</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>244</b>



*Photos: Squirrel Glider (top) resident in nest box; (left) micro bat box installed on burnt tree showing new epicormic growth - that wonderful fire-adaptive capacity of eucalypts to regenerate in burnt landscapes*

COVID-19 difficulties have delayed other nest box partnership installation and monitoring programs since the 2020 project commencement. The nest box partnership with Macleay Landcare Network MLN saw the installation of 200 additional nest boxes provided by FAWNA on 27 participant properties in the Macleay Valley. A monitoring program commenced after 12 months had elapsed from initial installations. The MLN outcomes report concluded:

*“Results showed 133 (66.5%) of the 200 installed nest boxes had signs of wildlife occupancy. This impressive result is a credit to Landcare led program partnerships, community members and FAWNAs funding contributions from public donations.”*

At this report’s publication date FAWNA is waiting for monitoring outcomes reports from nest box partnerships forged with MidCoast Council and Forestry Corporation for programs in Port Macquarie-Hastings and MidCoast

FAWNA wishes to thank its members, Andrew and Meredith Ryan, Louise Moore, Gail Whitwell, Kym Kilpatrick and Stan Bolden for their concept, planning, execution and administrative work in FAWNA’s bushfire recovery nest box program. For the past 2 years Stan has taken the running and has worked particularly innovatively in improving ease of access to boxes for monitoring and to increase expected box life spans. Most of all, this initiative is a demonstration of how effective a publicly-funded program can be through swift development of actions to respond to a bushfire emergency situation affecting the region’s wildlife.

**Veterinary services Memorandum of Understanding – Koala Conservation Australia KCA:** FAWNA signed a MOU with the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital to utilise Koala Conservation Australia’s two resident veterinarians for general wildlife veterinary consultations. This is proving to be a particularly helpful activity in the current climate of veterinarian shortages state-wide. It has been a long-held dream that wildlife hospital services might be available to the FAWNA region. FAWNA thanks KCA and Vets Shali and Astrid for embracing this concept in the Port Macquarie-Hastings shire – one that is proving of remarkable benefit and greatly enhancing animal welfare outcomes for wildlife. It is a project we hope may continue past its 6 month trial period.

**FAWNA’S Annual Bryce Laut Member’s Achievement Award recipient in 2022 was Rod Miller.**

Rod has worked tirelessly on FAWNA’s IT matters, including Website, a wildlife reporting database that is the envy of many in the rehabilitation sector, a member database and an email communications network. At an Awards luncheon enjoyed by 45 FAWNA members at Johns River Hall in February, the NPWS presenter concluded his remarks:

*NPWS is extremely grateful for the work that you all do and acknowledges the role that you play in assisting National Parks and Wildlife and the wildlife management. We look forward to working together in 2023 and into the future.*

*Cheers, Shane Robinson, Area Manager, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hastings-Macleay Area*

**20 Year Members**, Sally and Mark Saunders, were acknowledged at the August AGM

**10 Year member certificates were prepared for:** Rod Miller, Sita Parsons, Barbara Lyons, Penny Britton, Gail Stevens, Robert Cooke, Angela Cooke, Bethany Ritter, Annette Ritter, Jill Eagleton, Van Blears, Cloudia Blears-Zapata, and Lesley McLaughlin. Those members collectively represent 170 years of volunteering for wildlife; a remarkable achievement.

In February, member 108, Joy McKay was awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her significant contribution to FAWNA through her rehabilitation work, particularly the rehabilitation of orphaned marsupials.

**A volunteer recruitment publicity drive** was supported by a small donation from MidCoast Council. FAWNA hosted a meet and greet session at Manning Regional Art Gallery. The disappointing response was most likely due to a surge of COVID-19 cases locally. We thank members Kym Kilpatrick and Anke DeReuver for their efforts and Jessica Leck for securing the funding.

**Envirofair 2023 June held in Taree Park was an event** rescheduled many times over two years due to COVID-19 spikes and the venue suffering from waterlogging after extreme rainfall events. It provided an opportunity to showcase FAWNA's work to the regional community and inspire participation in FAWNA volunteering.

**Douglas Vale Festival, Port Macquarie.** October 2022 (*R FAWNA Secretary, Andrew Ryan puts last minute touches to the children's "Guess whose poo?" competition where samples of wildlife scats had to be identified to a particular wildlife species drawing*).

**Acknowledgment to Veterinarians and their staff.**

Without the services of Veterinarians and their staff FAWNA would not be able to have the positive animal welfare outcomes we do for the injured and orphaned wildlife that comes to our attention. Cost rises and veterinary shortages are proving problematic from all fronts. FAWNA is grateful beyond measure to those veterinarians and staff who are willing to provide services to wildlife particularly in these tough times. It is remarkable considering the current constraints and lack of financial assistance from government to help defray wildlife veterinary treatment costs.



**Our volunteers are our Wildlife Heroes** – they give their time, their financial and other resources to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife, to house them and ensure their welfare often for many months. They staff the 24 hour phone system and keep records up to date. They ensure we have a hard-working management committee to run our organisation. Some co-ordinate species groups and act as member mentors. Trips are made out at all times of day in all weathers and the midnight oil is burnt or 2 am feeds given to those marsupial joeys so dependent on round-the-clock nutrition. They train other members and attend events. We are very proud of our membership, and thank them all for their endeavour in the 2022-2023 year. We also thank their household members who provide ongoing support, hopefully without complaint when an animal appears to come first.

**In particular I thank the 2022-2023 elected committee:** Treasurer Stan Bolden, Member Secretariat Yvonne Couper, Events caterer Jill Eagleton, Member Secretariat Margaret Howard, Phone Manager Amber Hunziker, Vice President and Media Kym Kilpatrick, Webmaster Rod Miller, Secretary Andrew Ryan, Training Officer Gail Whitwell. We acknowledge also the solid work put in by Jane Duxberry and Susanne Scheuter until their departure for northern climes December last.

**Vale to Members:** Diana Goodwin, Comboyne; Rita Kalev, Tarbuk Bay; Miriam Graham, Harrington. Our condolences go to their families.

*Meredith Ryan,  
President*

*August 2023*

**WELCOME!** to the incoming FAWNA Management Committee 2023-2024

**Hearty thanks** from the whole membership go to the willing workers of the Management Committee – they take on a lot of pretty frustrating/difficult/tiring work in admin and organisation so FAWNA keeps operating.



Above: Stan (Treasurer), Meredith, (President) and Andrew (Secretary)

**Executive and Committee**

- President: Meredith Ryan
- Vice President: Kym Kilpatrick
- Secretary: Andrew Ryan
- Treasurer: Stan Bolden



**General Committee**

- Yvonne Couper
- Jane Davis
- Jill Eagleton
- Jenny Edwards
- Kelly Fernance
- Paul Hoskinson
- Margie Howard
- Amber Hunziker
- Barb Lyons
- Gail Whitwell



*Congratulations for 10+ years' service!*



Above: Roy Eagleton awarded 10 year certificate  
Left: Jill Eagleton awarded 11 year certificate  
Right: Barb Lyons awarded 12 year certificate  
Below: 2023 AGM attendees – new committee all accepted in!



## A special FAWNA Good News story – always so good to hear them....

Here is some inspiration to get us powered up ready for Spring!

Meet Liam Ayres, a wildlife protector and champion....

(We received this back in freezing July)

*"Hi Meredith,*

*My son, Liam Ayres, had a school project last year called \$20 boss (Yr6 at St Peter's) where students were provided \$20 (to be repaid once they made the money back) to start up a "business" that had a focus on helping the community in some way. He decided to make nest boxes and donate 10% of his profit to Landcare and also to FAWNA.*

*He used recycled materials and provided a free seedling (purchased from landcare) to customers.*

*He sold a few that were specifically made for Rainbow Lorikeets (see attached photo) and yesterday he dropped his FAWNA donation to the NPWS office at Blackbutt Rd for you to collect when you are in next. Ang popped it in the safe for safe keeping.*

*It is only a small contribution but hopefully it helps a little.*

*Kind regards,*

*Amanda"*



### *Coming up soon!*

FAWNA Rescue & Immediate Care Course

When: Sunday 15th October 2023

Where: Kendall Community Centre,  
19 Comboyne St, Kendall NSW 2439

## A big **Welcome Back** to Amber Hunziker Phone Manager!

We welcome Amber back as Phone Manager after many months away, busy with her family addition – Zack!



Amber says, *"Thank you so much Christine Nolan for all your hard work! I appreciate it so much. Christine has done a wonderful job – not only that – she stays on as Assistant Phone Manager, supporting me back into the role"*

### **Definition: From Readers Digest, 1941**

Baby: An alimentary canal with a loud voice at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.

## From the Press

### Interesting story from ABC News Website

#### **Rock climbers and peregrine falcons are attracted to the same Tasmanian cliffs. Here's how they co-exist** by Sarah Abbott, ABC posted 20 August 2023

Adam Hardy from Raptor Care North West is concerned for Tasmania's peregrine falcons, which always nest on cliffs. They breed from late August through to Christmas time – and that is when and where the established rock climbing routes are getting busy. Mishaps for both birds and climbers are a real threat. Chicks can suffer from exposure as parents are lured away to swoop and defend their nests from climbers, and that could mean the end of one breeding season for the pair.



The Tasmanian Peregrin Falcon population is estimated at about 650, including 150 to 200 breeding pairs. Typically, females lay three eggs a year, in late August/early September, and chicks usually fledge in December. Using social media, blogs and websites, environmentally aware climbers are keeping informed about where to avoid and how to enjoy the sport without disrupting the breeding cycles of Tassie's peregrine falcon population.

The full article is a great read and features some amazing photos. Go to the link below.

[https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-20/peregrine-falcons-rock-climbers-tasmania-cliffs-nesting-pressure/102706748?utm\\_campaign=abc\\_news\\_web&utm\\_content=link&utm\\_medium=content\\_shared&utm\\_source=abc\\_news\\_web](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-20/peregrine-falcons-rock-climbers-tasmania-cliffs-nesting-pressure/102706748?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web)

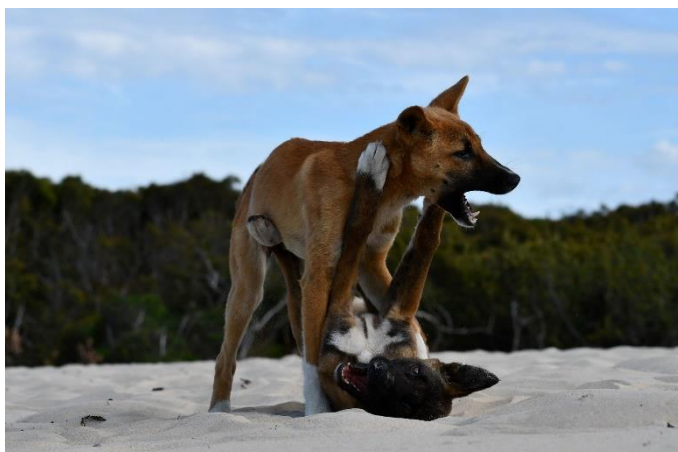
### This one is from the Manning River Times

#### **Science overturns myths about Manning Valley dingoes** by MRT Newsroom published online 21 August 2023

Dr Kylie Cairns, Australia's leading dingo genetics expert, visited MVU3A to present some of her internationally published research on dingoes and the "wild dog" myths that surround them.



Above: Myall Lakes dingo puppies.  
Left: Myall Lakes dingo youngsters  
Photos: Chontelle Burns Nouveau Rise Photography



Her recent work overturns the belief that there are few true dingoes remaining in Australia. Past knowledge was based on simple DNA research that tested just 23 markers. Dr Cairns' research is based on 195,000 DNA markers. Testing of existing and new samples from both "wild dogs"



and captive dingoes showed that the vast majority of “wild dogs” are actually dingoes. DNA testing of over 6,000 samples throughout Australia showed less than 1 per cent were feral domestic dogs.

Samples tested from the Gloucester, Taree, Myall Lakes and Port Macquarie areas showed only dingoes - they had no dog DNA in them! This may be a controversial topic in the Manning Valley and surrounds but the science is in.

- Dingoes definitely come in a range of coat colours – no we can't tell a dingo by the colour of his coat.
- Our Manning Valley dingoes are now confirmed to be Eastern Dingoes, they formed their own distinct population of dingoes, why and when, will be examined in future research. Dr Cairns' research shows that there are at least 4 different varieties of dingoes in Australia.
- Dingoes are native animals having been in Australia for 5,000 – 10, 000 years
- They are our only remaining native top land predator
- However, Dingoes are unprotected in NSW! How can this happen? Dingoes are being baited inside our national parks. The vast majority of “wild dogs” baited are in fact dingoes with no dog DNA. Dr Cairns is concerned that baiting programs will be a threat to their genetic identity and survival into the future as Australia's only native canid.
- They breed only once per year, in winter, with Dingo mums and dads both caring for their pups!

We may be lucky enough to see a dingo pup in the wild! It is worth noting that, if it looks healthy, it is best left in the bush, mum and dad will be off hunting or watching from a distance. If it is brought into captivity, it cannot be returned to the wild legally. Enjoy our beautiful Eastern Dingoes from a distance without disturbing them. Dr Cairns can be contacted on: [k.cairns@unsw.edu.au](mailto:k.cairns@unsw.edu.au)

[https://www.manningrivertimes.com.au/story/8314329/science-overturns-myths-about-manning-valley-dingoes/?src=rssutm\\_email=108897&utm\\_source=sfmc&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=](https://www.manningrivertimes.com.au/story/8314329/science-overturns-myths-about-manning-valley-dingoes/?src=rssutm_email=108897&utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=)

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## What is 'Enrichment' and why should we include it? *By Cheryl Winner*

- Provides an animal in care with an environment that stimulates and encourages species-specific behaviours.
- Mimics an animal's natural habitat and presents opportunities to exercise natural instincts and biological behaviours.
- There are many benefits of enrichment - teaching foraging skills, increasing activity levels, preventing boredom and stress and preserving natural behaviours such as digging, climbing, hunting, and browsing.

Enrichment focuses on stimulating the animal's five senses and can be easily and cheaply incorporated into an animal's enclosure.

Here is a list of examples:

- Use different types of branches in the enclosure. Each branch has a different texture and wildlife will use it in different ways. Brushtails for example love ripping off pieces of bark and ringtails use paperbark branches to help line their dreys.
  - Use thick natural ropes in aviaries to mimic swaying branches.
  - Change the layout of the enclosure frequently. This allows animals to explore their new space and not become bored.
  - Hide food to encourage foraging behaviour. Hiding a handful of mealworms in a tray of leaf litter for example encourages foraging and hunting behavioural skills but also prevents boredom.
  - Provide material such as native grasses and plants that animals can use to build natural nests. There are unlimited options when it comes to providing enrichment for animals in care!
-

## Macropod Training Day – back in May

If you weren't there, you missed a great training session!

I have to admit my head was spinning by the end of the day. **Macropods Rescue and Rehabilitation** – to me it was all pretty new. I have learnt so much; but also realise that I could go back and replay the day, and refresh that knowledge already. To trained Macropod carers – these training session must be an essential part of their regular development to keep up to date, be reminded of all those important details and share their experiences to grow that valuable FAWNA cache of experience + knowledge.

Meredith and Wendy presented a very full session on a very, very chilly day at the lovely Kendall Community Centre. I can still remember the sheer delight as the first mouthfuls of soup warmed me right down to my toes! Homemade soups – two to choose from – plus bread followed up with yummy sweet treats to follow – a day's training + morning tea and lunch \$30 - Wow that is great value!



*Top: Willow and Ella, Red-necked Wallabies*

*Left: Jupiter, Swamp Wallaby*

*Below: Training at a very chilly Kendall Community Hall*

*Below Left: Yay! Yummy morning tea*

*Right: And here comes lunch thanks Jill, much appreciated*



## Macropod General Knowledge / Trivia \*

Try these out on your friends!

1. How many species of macropods are there in Australia?
  - a) 3
  - b) 21
  - c) 48
2. What speed is the most efficient pace for a kangaroo to travel?
  - a) 4 kph
  - b) 20 kph
  - c) 64 kph
3. What kind of milk is best for orphaned Joeys?
  - a) Soy milk
  - b) Full cream UHT cow's milk
  - c) Wombaroo formula
4. Macropod care is easy and anyone can do it. True or False?
5. Macropods can be fed grain bread as a treat. True or False?
6. Kangaroo or Wallaby Joeys that appear to be vomiting or convulsing must be rushed to the vet. True or False?
7. Which of these macropod species are found in the FAWNA area?
  - a) Wallaby
  - b) Kangaroo
  - c) Pademelon
  - d) Wallaroo
  - e) Potoroo
8. If a macropod carer is contacted for a rescue, they don't need to contact the FAWNA Co-ordinator, because the carer will have done the Macropod Training course at some stage. True or False?

*Trivia Quiz Answers*

1. c) 48  
2. b) 20kph  
3. c) Wombaroo formula  
4. False – rewarding but not easy  
5. False – never feed Macropods any bread or seed  
6. False – there is a normal regurgitation action called "merycism". It may aid digestion  
7. All of these  
8. False – always register with the co-ordinator ASAP and no later than 24hrs

\* Quiz created from information in Training Manual



*Poppy with joey,  
Red-necked  
Wallaby*

## FAWNA Committee – the Fridge List!

### Executive and Committee

President: Meredith Ryan (NWC Representative) 0419 423 426  
Vice President: Kym Kilpatrick (Media Officer) 0412 369 677  
Secretary: Andrew Ryan 0438 856 470  
Treasurer: Stan Bolden 0439 727 892

### Committee

Yvonne Couper (Membership) 6567 4134  
Jane Davis 0438 506 162  
Jill Eagleton 0419 010 072  
Jenny Edwards 0418 183 168  
Kelly Fernance 0417 900 818  
Paul Hoskinson 0421 367 470  
Margie Howard (Membership) 6567 4134  
Amber Hunziker (Phone Manager) 0401 003 688  
Barb Lyons 0414 936 954  
Gail Whitwell 0477 846 186

Remember!



**Species Co-ordinators list is  
on the website in the  
Members Forms area**

## CARERS: Let's practice what we preach! Practice Self-care!

### Alone in a Crowd: Loneliness and Social Anxiety

Staying connected and feeling a sense of belonging are essential for your mental and physical health. Yet, feelings of loneliness are common for many Australians.

Parallel to loneliness, social anxiety is a serious challenge that many face. Social anxiety disorder goes beyond the typical nervousness before public speaking; it's an intense fear of social situations, often leading to avoidance behaviours and feelings of distress. The dread of judgment or embarrassment can get in the way of social connections and impact our ability to participate in day-to-day activities that are meaningful and important to them. Over time this can intensify feelings of loneliness.

These two challenging, yet common, emotional experiences (loneliness and social anxiety) often intertwine, creating a vicious cycle.

They feed into each other, stopping us from things such as:

- 🔴 Participating in group activities (*FAWNA for example!! The Ed.*)
- 🔴 Initiating conversations with others
- 🔴 Trying new things that we'd like to



Extract from: **THIS WAY UP** website

The website is worth a browse if you are feeling anxious or depressed... or not quite sure what! A wonderful resource for us, our friends and families. It contains online evidence-based programs to help improve the way you feel. THIS WAY UP is run by clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, researchers, and web technicians based at the Clinical Research Unit for Anxiety and Depression (CRUfAD) – a joint facility of St Vincent's Hospital and the University of New South Wales.

<https://thiswayup.org.au/>

FAWNA Members' Noticeboard



**FAWNA FB Page**

Yes! FAWNA has a FB page... please 'follow' FAWNA NSW Inc. and put plenty of likes on posts.... It all helps to spread the word!

**Attention all !**

FAWNA offers a range of interesting volunteer roles some with high commitment and some with a much smaller commitment. Just by belonging to FAWNA you are already supporting wildlife in our area of operation. **Be proud!**

If you are not very "active" in your membership and want to 'put a toe in the water' to do more, please have a chat to our Committee members

**See your "Fridge List" back on Page 12**

(From 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023)



**Thank you all for your Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraising hard work yesterday. Your great result is very much appreciated by us all. The FAWNA Team.**

**Thank You Carers!**  
Newbies and experienced,  
Large scale and small scale...

**We couldn't do it without YOU**

**Did you know?**

FAWNA is a Platypus Sponsor of **WildTalk** which offers counselling services to wildlife rehabilitators - 1300 945 382  
[www.wildtalk.org.au](http://www.wildtalk.org.au)

**CARERS!**

**Has your availability changed?**

Yes? Time to update!

Please contact Margie & Yvonne (Membership)

6567 4134

they can arrange updating on the lists

**FAWNA Rescue & Immediate Care Course**

**Coming up soon!**

*When:* Sunday 15th October 2023

*Where:* Kendall Community Centre, 19 Comboyne St, Kendall NSW 2439

**Book via the website now!**

**Do you know someone who is interested in becoming a member? Let them know!**

## Birds – Black Shouldered Kite

This **Black Shouldered Kite** was in my care not long ago and I took it in as a fledgling because it was being attacked by other birds and was also injured and unable to fly yet.

It was eventually released after it started to fly and had reached its release weight. We invited the couple who rescued it along with us to the release site. They saw this beautiful raptor soar through the sky to eventually land back in the tree where its parents were waiting. As one can imagine, this release was very pleasing to all involved in its rescue and care.

**Gail Whitwell, Southern Bird Coordinator**

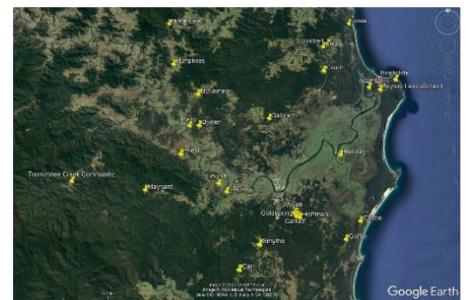


## FAWNA Nest Box Appeal

### Summary of Macleay Outcomes final report

Local Wildlife has welcomed a collaborative effort between wildlife rescue organization, FAWNA and the Macleay Landcare Network (MLN), following installations of 200 nest boxes on private properties in the Macleay Valley. The project was made possible by public donations to FAWNA's Nest Box Appeal following the devastating fires on the mid-north coast of NSW during 2019/20.

27 participating properties were identified through an Expression of Interest call out as part of MLN's periodical newsletter. Each property received between 5 and 15 boxes, based on the property size & location. Smaller properties were encouraged in clusters where possible.



The nest boxes were purchased by FAWNA's funding contributions and assembled locally by Macleay Options. Different designs were constructed to cater to a variety of native tree-dwelling birds & mammals. This program encountered a suite of challenges including record wet weather events and COVID-19. Compounding challenges encountered during this project incurred delays in box installations. We have now finalized monitoring results, following a 12-month period since installations took place with some fantastic results.



Results showed 133 (66.5%) of the 200 installed nest boxes had signs of wildlife occupancy. This impressive result is a credit to Landcare led program partnerships, community members and FAWNA's funding contributions from public donations. SALTAIR Flora & Fauna is our main provider for Nest Boxes & Tree hollow services and conducted all installations and monitoring under this program. For more information about this project contact the Macleay Landcare Network on ph: 6562 2076.

FAWNA Member receives OAM for work with Wildlife

Congratulations Cheyne Flanagan OAM!



In June, Cheyne was awarded the Order of Australia Medal at this year's King's Birthday Honours List.

*(photo: Port Macquarie News)*

*For service to wildlife preservation and conservation*

FOCUS on our amazing wildlife

Do you have a wildlife photo to share with the FAWNA community?



It needs to be original and could be of a favourite 'patient' or a wonderful animal that you found on a walk or in the garden. I will select a favourite and it will feature in the next Newsletter.

Send your digital image in jpeg format, title it and give some background story if you wish.

Send to: [margie.kennard@outlook.com](mailto:margie.kennard@outlook.com)

Happy snapping!

*Margie K*



*(I'll start off with one of mine!) This little girl (I think?) was lucky - just a little stunned from flying into my window at home....*

*Satin Bower Bird  
by Margie Kennard*

**Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.**

*Oscar Ameringer, "the Mark Twain of American Socialism."*

## The joys and the trials of being a phonie!

*"Good afternoon - FAWNA Wildlife Rescue, Margie speaking"*

What made me do it?!

I joined FAWNA in October 2022 after meeting Kym Kilpatrick and Stan Bolden when they fulfilled my long held dream of installing nest boxes on our property. I had kept a newspaper clipping of one of Kym's articles and luckily it had her contact details on there. They also agreed to speak about FAWNA's work at the Manning Valley U3A course I was running. A life-long interest in animals led me to quickly decide to join FAWNA and see how I could help.



But how could I? With lots of other volunteer commitments and a partner who appreciates animals but not at close quarters – what could I do?

At the beginning of this year, I was so happy when I found that I could become a 'Fabulous FAWNA Phonie'!

After some careful training and re-reading the manual a few times, Christine thought I was ready to take the plunge! After a nerve-racking first few shifts, I found a rhythm and method in taking the calls, taking down details and contacting rescuers and carers and then recording the data.

Currently, I work one 5 hour shift per week and I try to help with fill-ins when I can.

What made it easier:

- Encouragement from Christine (Phone Manager at the time)
- Encouragement from other friendly Phonies
- Regular reminders to call on Species Co-ordinators if unsure (that are so helpful)
- When rescuer/carers responded quickly
- When I briefly explained to the member of public that FAWNA is a volunteer organisation they were much more patient (usually!)
- When I relaxed a little more and had more experience
- If I am not 100% sure of an answer, I know I can ask a co-ordinator and call the member of public back.

Yes, it can be a challenge – but I know that I make a difference to our wildlife – in my own small way.

*Margie Kennard*

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## FAWNA needs phonies!!

**Why not give it a try? Do you know someone who may not be able to be a carer, but may be able to help as a Fabulous FAWNA Phone Operator?**

**Contact Amber Hunziker, Phone Manager 0401 003 688**

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### From the Ed...

I hope you enjoyed my first attempt at our newsletter! With your help it will keep getting better. 😊

Please contribute photos, stories and articles that you think are worth sharing (always include reference to where and when it was published so I can

acknowledge) and I would love to hear your own stories. Don't wait! Send me your contributions anytime!

Thanks for being so welcoming FAWNA Community!

Margie K.

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