

Wildlife Whispers

Issue

6

Spring
2021



Short-beaked Echidna
(*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)

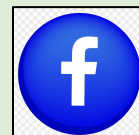
Wildlife Photographer of the Year winners for 2021 'A caring hand'. Category: Photojournalism. Highly commended.

After a good feed, a rescued female Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) pup is comforted and soothed to sleep on what is called a "mumma roll" in a wildlife carer's home.

She was three weeks old when she was found on the ground in Melbourne, Australia, and taken to a shelter.



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MEMBERS ONLY Hunter Wildlife
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The Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF) was the first volunteer wildlife rescue group to operate in NSW and was licensed in 1978.

We operate rescue activities throughout the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Cessnock and Maitland local government areas.



The Native Animal Trust Fund Inc. Hunter Wildlife Rescue is a non-profit incorporated association, licensed by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

HWR Presidents Report

Dear Members,

I do hope you are all well and ok in this world we are living in. It has not stopped our work as I hear we are as busy as ever and phone calls for rescues are very numerous everyday. With daylight savings I am sure we will see even more calls coming in.

I would like to thank the Whats App working party for the great work they have done so far in bringing this APP to a trial - allowing members to use it and see what they think. This APP will not replace the current phone system we have now. Members can decide if they wish to use it or not. We are looking at seeing if this will make things easier for all the rescuers and the phone operators by getting fauna collected quicker and into care. I suggest maybe you all think about downloading the APP and trialling it as we need more help to save time and this is the busiest time during Summer time to test this.

Teresa and Pauline have set up the Whats App for both reptiles and birds and are finding this is working so well that not only is it getting rescues done more efficiently but the members can also chat among themselves and share knowledge and support each other.

Thank you to all the members who entered their fauna data records. Sadly again many of you did not so we do miss out on knowing how many rescues we have achieved during the past twelve months. These numbers are important to show NPWS in our yearly report of what we have accomplished.

We have now completed our koala rehab centre on a members property. This was funded through the NSW NPWS Koala funding grant that we received last year. We now have a full rehab unit from an IC unit, to second stage outside aviary unit and also a pre-release rehab unit.

We have an approved koala vet who will be attending to any koalas, Dr Robin Crisman, whom works very closely with the Port Macquarie Koala hospital and the Taronga Zoo Wildlife Clinic. Both of these facilities will take any koalas that we feel needs extra special treatment we cannot provide and they support HWR with our koala care.

The West Wallsend Colliery had two koalas either fighting or mating at their site. The other week their operations were stopped and one koala rescued, a beautiful big healthy male, which was carefully checked over and released into the surrounding bushland. Thanks to John, Sandy and Jackie who assisted in this rescue and release. The mine has now said they wish to give a donation to our group for the great work we do, which will be very nicely appreciated.

It may be a very hot summer this year as the Hunter did not see hot fires in the past two years so it may happen this year. Please be prepared to jump in and help as we may also see heat stress events again with our flying foxes so we need to start getting ready just in case.

I would like to upgrade a list for members wishing to be involved in these incidents so please email me at president@hunterwildlife.org.au with your preferred days and times you may wish to be called in to assist in our organised firewalks and rescues.

Thank you all for keeping up your well appreciated good work and efforts.

Regards
Audrey Koosmen
President

Urgent Message to HWR Members



Dear Members,

THIS IS AN URGENT CALL FOR HELP FROM YOU ALL. Help is needed to keep our Rescue Phone operating.

At present we have over 10 shifts that needs an operator to cover. Without our 24/7 rescue phone we will not be able to assist the wildlife that needs rescuing and care.

I am asking if any experienced wildlife members in the membership or non experienced members that can please come forward and give some time to help.

Anne Williams and Chriss Beer cannot do all these shifts and it is not fair to expect them to. If we all want to see our fauna cared for well, we need your help please. Anne has not long recovered from a very serious illness and cannot cover vacant shifts nor can Chriss this is taking a toll on both of these ladies.

If we dont get more phone operators then the Rescue Phone may have to go to an answering service where members of the public will be given information what to do, which I am sure that is not what anyone wants to see.

I do thank those members who have come forwarded to do more shifts and also others who have taken on extra shifts. There must be experienced members among the group whom could come forth. Many of our operators are very new members and they are trying to do the best they can.

I have been told that the WhatsApp is indeed helping which is great in assisting our phone operators - but we still need a hand up to do the phones.

MEMBERS WE NEED HELP TO KEEP OUR RESCUE PHONE OPERATING. I AM SURE NO ONE WOULD WANT TO SEE OUR PHONE GOING TO AN ANSWERING SERVICE!

PLEASE CONTACT ME VIA EMAIL IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP, EVEN A FEW HOURS WOULD BE HELPFUL, THANK YOU EVERYONE.

Regards
Audrey Koosmen
President HWR

HWR Emergency Phone Operators



Urgent Attention Please



Dear Phone Operators,

There have been a few incidents brought to my attention where injured fauna has not been attended to or given the help needed. These animals were injured late at night or in the early hours of the morning, mainly on our highways/freeways. Often, they have been very small pinkie joeys or adult fauna such as possums, wombats and macropods with the possibility of having a pouch young or joey at foot following mum nearby.

Wildlife injured on the roadside or on a highway/freeway should be assessed by a Hunter Wildlife Rescuer to determine injuries and to check for young in the pouch or at foot joeys. Many native animals hit by cars can recover. The call needs to go to an experienced member who can assess the situation and make appropriate decisions.

Hunter Wildlife Rescue offer a 24/7 rescue service so we must adhere to that and give these animals the assistance they need. It is not up to the member of the public (MOP) to provide that care and we should not expect it.

All phone operators have been sent an updated email with an attachment for an “After Hour Contact List 24/7 of Members” who are willing to be called throughout the day and night.

Please use this list and DO NOT let any native fauna be left unattended by the roadside or left for the MOP attend to. This list is set out in Local Government Areas (LGA) and colour coded for quick reference.

Also, a list of Species Coordinators was emailed to assist you along with the Phonies Contact List. Please print these lists and have them readily accessible to assist you. The link is below.

A friendly reminder to all Hunter Wildlife Phone Operators our 24/7 Hotline is not a call centre and advice should not be given out unless you are an experienced wildlife carer. Now you have this list with members who can give advice along with the list of Coordinators we do hope this will help in the many incidents you may come across.

The Management Committee thank you for all the great support and work you do and hope these lists will help you as Phone Operators and give our precious wildlife a better chance.

Regards,
Audrey Koosmen
President Hunter Wildlife Rescue

HWRs New Communication Tool Introduced To Improve Rescue Response Times

Background

A dedicated group of members known as the Hunter Wildlife Rescue, Communication Improvement Working Group (The Group) have been meeting regularly for the past few months to review and improve the current procedures for phone operators to locate and assign rescuers and transporters for wildlife needing assistance. The Group has three goals for this investigation:

- reduce the time it takes us to get help to wildlife in need
- reduce the stress on phonies as the current method of 1:1 phone calls to find available members to respond is inefficient and challenging when phones are busy; and
- improve flexibility for active member availability and sense of 'connectedness' by enabling broadcast messages that all active members can see and choose to respond to.

The Group consulted with phonies, committee members, phonie coordinators and other members to understand the current operations, challenges and opportunities for improvement. Teresa Purnell shared with The Group details of her WhatsApp Snake group of HWR members that have been using their group to coordinate snake rescues, find carers and share advice and support for each other and all things 'snakey'. Some of the benefits Teresa shared from members of this group was the sense of community that has developed among members, the sharing of knowledge and skills that benefits all group members and the ability to respond faster for snakes & large reptiles in need. The Group are now aware of a number of similar WhatsApp groups that have been established by HWR members such as Paulines Flock (bird carers) and Teresa and Caseys Lizards and Turtles and there could be other similar groups that we aren't aware of.

WhatsApp Trial Underway for Rescues and Transport

After much consideration and some collaborative scenario testing to define the process, The Group decided that WhatsApp can be a useful tool for HWR phonies to send broadcast messages to find responders and that it is definitely worth going forward with a trial. WhatsApp is a tool in addition to phone calls.



It will be used first to send one message to all active HWR members in the WhatsApp rescue groups. If a responder can't be found within a short time, phone calls to members will begin.

Training and Helpful Resources

If you can send a text message from your phone, you have the skills to use WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free app installed on your smartphone or computer that can send text messages to a defined group of people, direct (private) messages between 2 people and audio and video calls.

A series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about how we will use WhatsApp is available on the membership website that you can read [here](#). A zoom meeting to promote the trial to HWR members was held on September 30. If you weren't available for the the Zoom meeting and would like to watch the recording it's available [here](#).

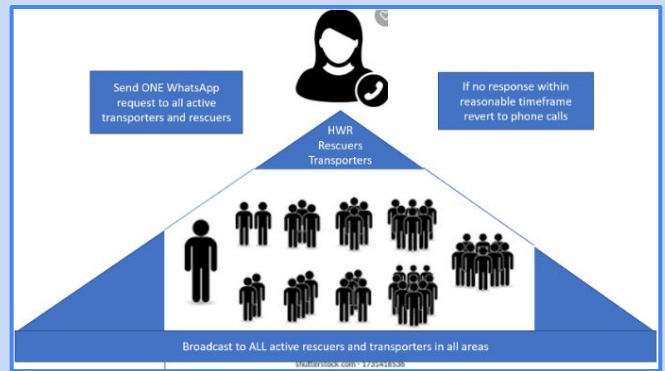
On October 7th several members met via zoom for process training so that the trial could start on October 11. At the time of writing, 35 Phonies and Active members went live this week using WhatsApp. The success of the trial and our ability to meet the goals stated above will be influenced by how many members join the WhatsApp HWR rescue groups.

How does it work for HWR?

There are four WhatsApp groups for phonies to use:

- HWR Pickup and Rescue
- HWR Snakes and Monitors
- HWR Macropods
- HWR Bats

A message posted in any of these groups is seen by all members of the group. This is much faster than making individual calls to active members.



Please note all these group names start with HWR.

If you are creating other groups for members to collaborate about a species that's great, but please don't put HWR at the start of the name as we would like to keep this naming protocol as a way to identify the rescue groups.

The generalist HWR Pickup and Rescue group is the main group phonies will use to find responders that can rescue or transport wildlife. Members with additional training, skills or vaccination can also be members of the 'specialist' groups for HWR Snakes & Monitors or HWR Adult Macropods that need skilled handlers and HWR Bats that require vaccinated handlers.

How do I join the HWR WhatsApp groups?

All active members are welcome to join and help is available to get you started. Once you are added you will see the groups you are a member of in your WhatsApp chats list. Reach out to Jane Richardson or Leanne Samootin to be added to the WhatsApp groups or to Jane, Leanne, Susan Darroch, Teresa Purnell or Belinda Olding if you need assistance.

How will we know it's a success?

Phonies are entering data into a Google sheet to tally the number of responders found using WhatsApp. During the month of the trial we hope to see an increasing number of responders found using WhatsApp as more people join the groups.

Subjective feedback from phonies will also be gathered to determine whether response times are reduced by using WhatsApp. It is very exciting to see that of the four sets of data so far entered into the tally sheet, half to three quarters of the actionable calls found responders through WhatsApp which is a fantastic start!

Continuous Improvement

The Group knows that they can't anticipate every scenario when coming up with the guidelines for using WhatsApp. All users are encouraged to provide feedback via another WhatsApp group called HWR Pilot Feedback so that we can continue to improve the way the system works.

If you are using the App and are not part of this group, please contact Jane, Leanne or Susan to get an invitation link so your questions, scenarios or feedback can be considered.

How can I help?

If you haven't already, become a member of the HWR WhatsApp group.

If you are already part of the trial, spread the word to other members. Let them know your experience and encourage them to join. Even though there have been emails and zoom meetings, sometimes word of mouth is the best way to get others involved.

What does the future look like?

We envisage WhatsApp procedures to become part of New Member and Phonies training so that group messages in WhatsApp along with phone calls becomes a normal part of HWR procedures for responding to wildlife needing assistance.

HWR Rescues and Transport

WhatsApp trial is underway

How is WhatsApp used for Rescues and Transport

What do messages look like?

When wildlife needs transport or rescue, phonies post a message in the appropriate group. A new message starts with the LOCATION, listed generally as the suburb not the address.

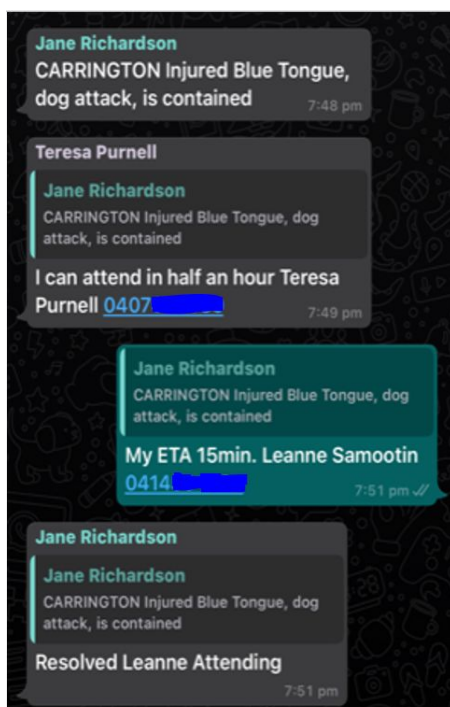
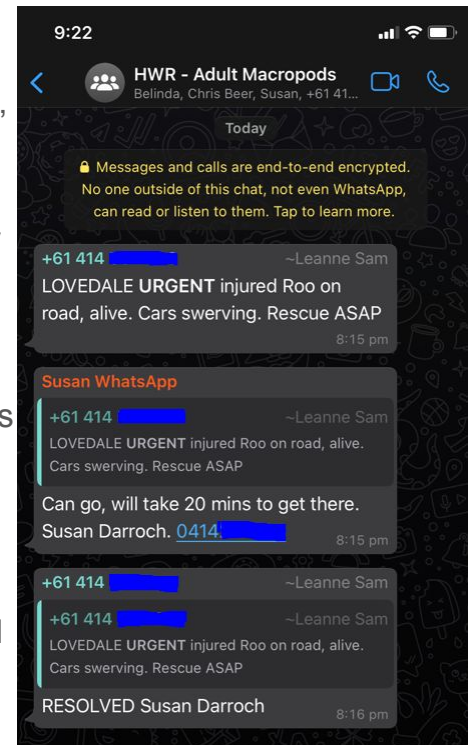
This is followed by the species, brief information about the injury if relevant and the action required (rescued/transport). It may also say whether it is urgent if the injury is life threatening or that the animal is already contained.

Members ONLY respond if they can attend. Please remember that every post in these groups will make a notification to group members phones so we are trying our best to reduce chatter unrelated to assigning responders or rescuers needing help in these groups. Responders reply to the message and state their ETA, name and phone number.

The phonie will select the closest responder and reply to the original message RESOLVED with the name of the member responding.

Phonies will then privately message or phone that responder the details of the address, location and all other information required.

This ensures that we don't have multiple people attending the same call-out. It is important that we all try to remember to reply to a message rather than making a new post so that everyone can follow which reply relates to which message and avoid confusion on busy days.



Please remember to private message any details that don't need to be seen by the entire group so that members know when they get a 'ping' from their HWR groups it is an important message about wildlife that needs assistance.

Can I respond if it's outside my local area?

Absolutely! Currently phonies look for active members local to the animal needing assistance. Some active members tell us they could often assist with rescues or transport outside their 'regular' area when they happen to be travelling or available to help and we currently don't tap into this availability. Using WhatsApp gives all members greater flexibility to be available to assist at times and locations beyond those you indicated on the active members list. Participating is entirely up to you.

What if I don't want to be disturbed?

You can mute notifications from WhatsApp and unmute them when you are available. You can also set a tone on your HWR WhatsApp groups so that notifications from these groups sound different to your other notifications and you can be alerted to check the message or ignore if you are unavailable to attend.

Victorian gardeners to face backyard blitz on netting with new laws proposed to protect wildlife.

Victorian backyard gardeners could face fines of almost \$2,500 if they are not careful when covering their fruit trees with nets.

In an Australian-first, the Victorian Government wants to legislate the colour and size of any netting used to protect household fruit trees and veggie patches.

Anyone found selling or advertising netting that does not meet the state's regulations could also face a maximum penalty of almost \$2,500.

Draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals laws propose all household fruit netting: "must have mesh size of 5mm or less at full stretch, be white in colour, and have a strand diameter of no less than 500 microns".

The Government said the new laws would help protect wildlife, and authorised officers would be given powers to investigate any reports of illegal netting.

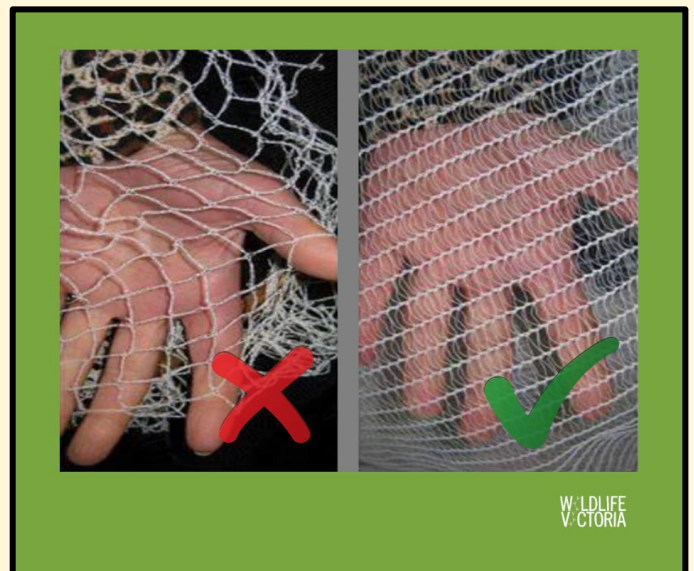
"Despite public education campaigns, many animals are seriously injured or killed in fruit tree netting because people continue to use unsuitable types of netting to protect their trees," a spokeswoman said.

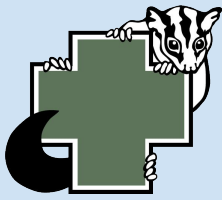
If approved, Victoria's backyard blitz would mean any person found using illegal netting could be fined \$330, and a person selling, or advertising illegal netting fined \$660.

If the matter is referred to the court, a maximum penalty of \$2,478 is proposed.

The RSPCA said if netting was not used in the correct manner it could pose a serious risk to animals such as flying foxes, birds, possums, and even snakes. It said animals could die from strangulation, blood loss, shock, or dehydration. The RSPCA recommends gardeners check their netting at least twice a day to ensure animals are not caught.

Please note: At this stage NSW DPI does not have any laws on tree netting to protect wildlife from injury and death.





HWR Member News

Training Report

Hello all,

We are hoping that we will be able to start conducting Species Training Courses soon; unfortunately most Advanced Species Courses will have to wait until next year. We will be bringing some outstanding speakers to our group to deliver these courses.

The courses will be held at Hunter Wildlife Rescue Education Centre located at The Shortland Wetlands Centre - 1 Wetlands Pl, Shortland.

located at we would like to cover are;

- Advanced General Birds
- Birds of Prey
- Advanced Reptile care and treatment course.

We will be starting to conduct online courses for our new members and again hope to be able to do face to face classes when we all get out of lockdown.

Cheers for now,
HWR Training Team

IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER

**Hunter Wildlife Rescue Education Centre
The Shortland Wetlands Centre - 1 Wetlands Pl, Shortland.**

- ★ General Meeting:
 - 11am on Saturday, 4th December 2021
- ★ Christmas Get-Together:
 - For all members - everyone welcome - starts after the General Meeting with eats and drinks

*** HWR Fauna Data ***

As a part of our mandatory reporting to NPWS, all members "...must maintain a current register of all protected fauna reported, encountered or rescued" (Standard 14.1.1, Code of Practice).

This includes any fauna that may have died in your care, been euthanised, any healthy fauna relocated to another area, road kills encountered and any advice provided to members of the public to resolve a fauna encounter, ie reunite baby bird with parents or take immediately to the vet.

Please read the instructions carefully, as this will assist in the submission of your data into the NATF Fauna Database. <https://www.hunterwildlife.org.au/natf-fauna-database/>

Send in your data sheets MONTHLY to: faunadata@hunterwildlife.org.au

Please let me know if you would like help and tips on filling out your data forms email Donna at newsletter@hunterwildlife.org.au

New Western Sydney National Park to lead fight against extinction

Quolls, Bettongs and Brush-tailed Phascogales are just some of the locally extinct species making their historic return to a new National Park and feral predator-free area in western Sydney.

The 500 hectare site at Shanes Park (Darug Country) between Penrith and Windsor will be one of the largest new National Parks in western Sydney in over a decade. This project will not only allow the people of western Sydney a new place to enjoy the outdoors but they will also get to access to a conservation area and one of the nation's best wildlife experiences.

Environment Minister Matt Kean said the new Shanes Park site will become a tourist destination and will allow visitors to see what the Australian bush was like over 200 years ago. "Nowhere else in the country is the reintroduction of 30 species in an urban setting of over 500 hectares even been considered, let alone been delivered."

Shanes Park is one of seven feral-free areas either established or being established in NSW National Parks providing a conservation benefit to over 50 threatened species. "A network of predator-free areas is an essential part of our strategy to protect and restore our most vulnerable native species and this new project will bring the total feral-free area in NSW national parks to almost 65,000 hectares," Mr Kean said.

Establishment of the feral free area will begin with the construction of specialist perimeter fencing which is expected to begin in the next three months. The new National Park will be declared in early 2022 following consultation with Aboriginal groups on an Aboriginal name.



Hunter Wildlife Rescue



Uniforms for Members

HWR Polo Shirt and Fleecy Jacket

A polo shirt and a fleecy jacket are available for members to purchase at very affordable prices. These shirts can be worn at anytime.

They can be worn when you are attending a rescue or collecting animals from a member of the public or from veterinary surgeries. The uniform shirt and jacket should be worn if you are representing Hunter Wildlife Rescue such as conducting training or as functions or events like helping at the Total Field Days.

There is no recommended colour or requirements for the trousers, shorts or skirts.

Hi-Vis vests or shirts should be worn when you are attending a rescue in the open, near roads, etc for safety reasons so you can be clearly seen.

To Order: Please contact Chris Hill for further details. Email: rhill122@bigpond.com



Colour: Navy blue with green piping

Ladies: 8, 10, 12, 14 16

(one button at collar and slightly shorter sleeves)

Men: S, M, L, XL XXL

(3 buttons at collar)

Logo: Hunter Wildlife Rescue

Cost \$20.00



Colour: Navy blue with two pockets

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Logo: Hunter Wildlife Rescue

Cost \$35.00

Profile: Brown Antechinus

Scientific name: *Antechinus stuartii*

Alternative name: Marsupial or Native Mouse

Identification

Small native carnivorous marsupial, greyish-brown above and paler below, long pointed head with bulging eyes and have a mouth full of small sharp teeth like a dog and not two sharp teeth top and bottom like a house mouse or rat. Ears are large, thin and crinkly with a notch in the margin. The tail is the same length as the body or shorter and is sparsely haired. And can weigh up to 71 grams. Body: 70 mm - 140 mm.

Habitat and Distribution

Woodland and forest habitats of northern and eastern Australia.

Feeding and diet

It is mostly nocturnal, coming out during the night to prey upon insects, spiders, centipedes and sometimes small reptiles and frogs. During the day it can be found in large communal nests in tree hollows, crevices or logs on the ground.

Breeding behaviours

Females give birth to undeveloped naked young that latch onto teats in the pouch for up to 50 days. The pouch is a flat area found on the belly surrounded by 8 teats. The females, in turn, mate with as many partners as possible. Each carries sperm from perhaps dozens of males.

Males live for approximately 11 months and have a short breeding cycle of about 2 weeks in August, after which they die as a result of stress and exhaustion. By the time a female gives birth to around a dozen or more young (but only 8 can occupy the teats), by this time all the males are deceased.

At this time of the year in August, Hunter Wildlife Rescue received calls from members of the public who were concerned when discovering the dying males in their gardens. Some may think that the Antechinus have been poisoned or attacked by a cat or a dog, but this is natural occurrence for this species.



Not a mouse: Antechinus might look like mice, but they're actually small carnivorous marsupials. (Source: Ken Stepnell/Office of Environment and Heritage)



Antechinus scat is easily distinguished from a house mouse scat.

How can you tell the difference between an antechinus and a mouse?

1. An antechinus has a much pointier, long, narrow snout, a mouse has a round head and nose. They also double lobed ears.
2. An Antechinus have no lingering odour, mice create a musky smell.
3. An Antechinus is larger than a mouse, with the body length of an antechinus up to 16.5cm long, has a tail that is approximately the same length as its body.

Lake Macquarie | Awabakal Country

Koala Rescue

On Wednesday morning 22nd of September, our HWR Phone Operator received a call from the **Glencore West Wallsend Colliery** to advise that there were two koalas on their operation site and that they had ceased operations on the mine.

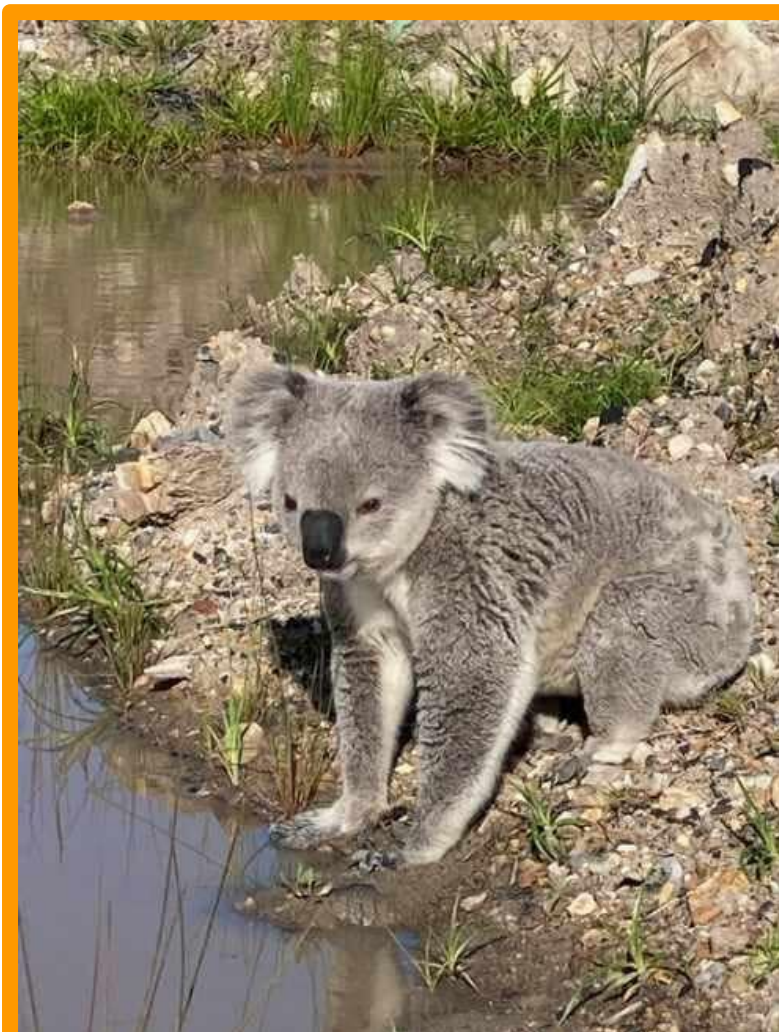
What was told to the Phone Operator was that it was a mum and her joey and the back joey had run off and could not be seen but they needed help to move them off their operation site.

The Phone operator called HWR rescuers who lived close by and they went to the site only to find that the mine staff (pictured right) had caught one very healthy large male. So we can only assume it was either a male and female mating or two males fighting on the ground as they often do during their breeding season which will last until February/March next year.



The HWR rescuers consulted with our Koala Coordinator who determined the koala to be healthy and well, so he was released back onto the site but away from the main operation. When he was released he climbed up to the highest branch and began to bellow that echoed throughout the bushland, like a victory call! The second koala had run off into bushland surrounding the site and was ok.

This a great success story, thanks to all involved, mainly our own HWR rescuers John and Sandy Penman and West Wallsend Colliery Glencore staff for their help and kindness to the koalas. Wonderful to know we have such healthy koalas in Lake Macquarie - Awabakal Country.



Differences between the Crested Pigeon and the Topknot Pigeon



Crested Pigeon

Scientific name: *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Identification: If startled, this pigeon takes to the air with a characteristic whistling flight. The whistling sound is produced by the air passing over a modified primary feather on the wing. Upon landing, the pigeon swings its tail high in the air.

The Crested Pigeon is a stocky pigeon with a conspicuous thin black crest. Most of the plumage is grey-brown, becoming more pink on the underparts. The wings are barred with black, and are decorated with glossy green and purple patches. The head is grey, with an pinkish-red ring around the eye.

Habitat and Distribution: The Crested Pigeon is found in lightly wooded grasslands in both rural and urban areas. It is usually found in the vicinity of water, as it has to drink every day, and is absent from the denser forests. The Crested Pigeon is native to Australia and is common throughout most of the mainland.

Feeding and diet: The Crested Pigeon diet consists mostly of native seeds, as well as those of introduced crops and weeds. Some leaves and insects are also eaten. Feeding is in small to large groups, which also congregate to drink at waterholes. Birds arrive in nearby trees, and often sit for long periods before descending to drink. Drinking and feeding are most common in morning and evening, but can occur at any time.

Breeding season: Usually September to March; but can breed at any time.

Clutch size: 2 **Incubation:** 21 days **Nest:** 21 days



Topknot Pigeon

Scientific name: *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

Identification: Large grey pigeon with a swept back crest that is grey in front and rusty-red behind, giving the head a unique shape. The body is darker grey above, with lighter grey below. It has dark grey, rounded wings with a pale tail band across the otherwise black tail. The eyes and bill are red. Females have a smaller, paler crest than males. Young birds resemble females, with a more mottled appearance and a browner head with a much smaller crest.

Habitat and Distribution: Rainforests and nearby wet forests and woodlands, mostly along moist sheltered gullies of Eastern Australia.

Seasonality: It is nomadic and highly mobile, following seasonally-abundant fruit. In Sydney, birds arrive from the north in autumn & winter.

Feeding & Diet: It is a frugivore, feeding on a variety of rainforest fruits, as well as those of introduced species such as Camphor Laurels. It is very rarely seen in suburban areas, but will forage on the outskirts of urban areas if fruits are available.

Breeding behaviours: They form monogamous breeding pairs after an elaborate courtship of bowing and parading. Nests are built in the crowns of the trees, from 2 m to 12 m above the ground.

What do you do if you find a Baby Bird?

The best chance for a baby bird is to leave it with its parents.

Spring is the time for baby birds and many fledglings leave the nest to try out their new wings only to find themselves on the ground. They just need a few days to exercise those muscles before they are as free as a bird.

Birds don't just need feeding to survive they also need their parents to teach them how to find food and survive after they have stopped feeding them. If you remove a baby bird from its parents you may be condemning it to a miserable death from starvation or it may be attacked by other birds as it has not learned survival skills.

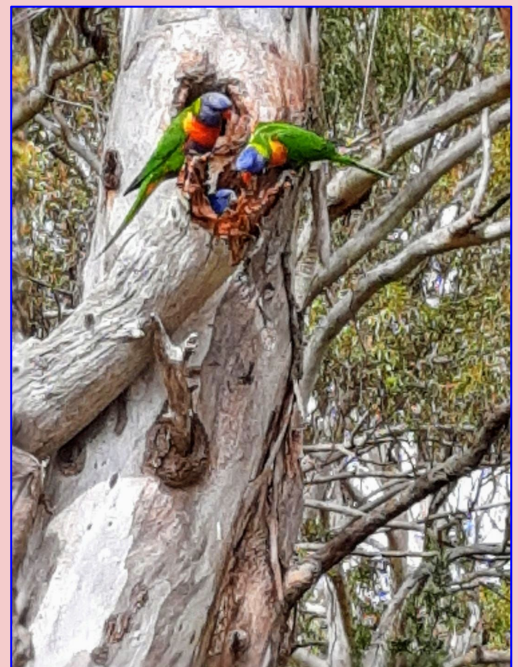
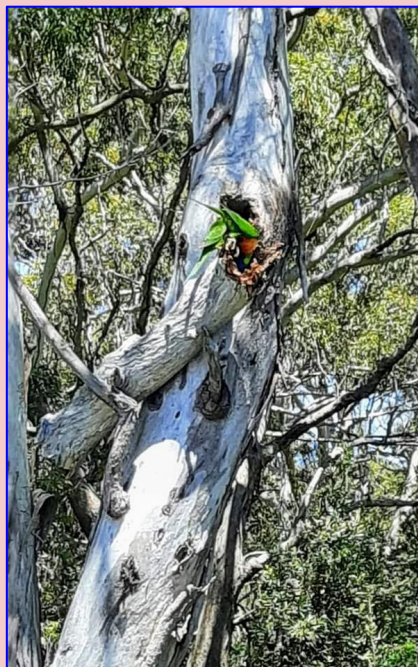
ALL BABY BIRDS MUST BE CHECKED BY AN EXPERIENCED BIRD CARER before putting them back as instructed by the Code of Practice for injured, sick and orphaned native birds.

My Recent Experience

I received a call from WINC asking me to take in 2 fledgling rainbow lorikeets. Their hollow in a branch had fallen to the ground. Andrew, the member of public who had found the two lorikeets took me to where he found them in Shoal Bay. After I assessed the birds as injury and disease-free, I decided to return them.

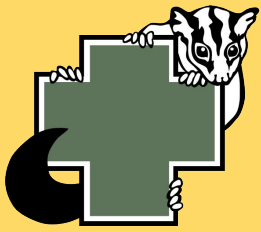
We found the original branch and made a makeshift home for them in the same tree. We put the fledglings inside the hollow with their heads poking out curiously to investigate. Their parents flew down to start feeding them straight away.

Andrew checked on them the next day and told me that one of them is up in the tree already.



This best result and outcome we could hope for; mum and dad raising their own offspring. Remember the baby birds need to be first assessed by an experienced bird carer before returning them to a nest.

Donna Hucker



Inspirational Quote



Saving one animal won't change the world but it will change the world for that one animal.



Editors End

Donna Hucker

Dear fellow members,

I have a new email address: newsletter@hunterwildlife.org.au I would love to hear from any members about what you are doing, no matter how big or small your animal or story is :) maybe you have a time-saving invention, a suggestion or an idea to make our rescue lives easier.

I will be starting to include a HWR members profile in each edition so we can know the people behind their names. I may be contacting you soon to hopefully participate. There's no pressure and nothing too personal, just a 'get to know' each other.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Country of our Indigenous People of Koori | Australia.

The Country | LGAs that Hunter Wildlife Rescue volunteer in are:

- Mulubinba | Newcastle
- Awaba | Lake Macquarie
- Mindaribba | Maitland
- Wonnarua | Cessnock
- Worimi | Port Stephens

Thanks everyone

Donna

