

# Wildlife Whispers

Issue

12

June  
2022

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Australian Pelican  
(*Pelecanus onocrotalus*)

## ***We Welcome New Members***

Due to the broad area covered geographically, we are always eager for new members to join. We are looking for members who have a passion for wildlife and can contribute in any way as rescuers, transporters, phone advice & rescue coordinators or rehabilitators/carers.

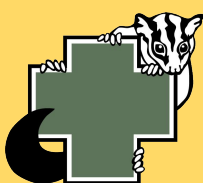
The part you play will be your own choice, from rescuing injured fauna, transporting from vet clinics to rehabilitators, rehabilitating injured or orphaned wildlife, manning a shift to help respond to calls for assistance and advice on the 24 hour phone, supporting Disaster Relief operations or you can choose to be a financial member only and just receive our newsletter Wildlife Whispers.



Follow us on instagram  
[@hunter\\_wildlife\\_rescue](https://www.instagram.com/hunter_wildlife_rescue)

Follow us on  
Facebook

- Hunter Wildlife  
Rescue, NATF Inc  
- MEMBERS ONLY Hunter  
Wildlife Rescue, NATF Inc



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

*A HUGE Thank You to WIRES  
NSW Wildlife Council  
for supporting and funding Hunter Wildlife Rescue*

- *WIRES donated \$12,000 to go towards a HWR WILDLIFE FOOD account to be set up. HWR can purchase fauna food through Newcraft; a fauna food supplier in Sydney.  
This helps our carers who work so hard rehabilitating injured, sick and orphaned fauna. The funding will allow us to continue the HWR Food Bank with free food to all our approved fauna carers.*
- *WIRES also nominated HWR and were successful in securing five Woolworths stores throughout the Hunter Valley region to supply us with free fruit, veggies and meat to help feed the fauna in care with HWR. This is happening as part of the WIRES National Food Grant Project.*
- *WIRES supported HWR in time of our recent floods and provided HWR with new sleeping crates for Wombats when all their burrows were flooded and destroyed.*
- *NSW Wildlife Council generously funded HWR with funding to repair three wombat pens destroyed in the floods and to the repair of a flying fox aviary .*

*We wish to thank WIRES for their support and help and want to express how grateful we are at HWR for receiving this funding and support.*

*Audrey Koosmen*

*President*

*Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF Inc.)*



## \*\*\*\* Important Reminders \*\*\*\*

### \*\* Membership Renewals are due \*\*

<b><u>Renewal</u> of Membership</b>	<b>One Year</b>	<b>Two Years</b>
Individual Membership Renewal	\$30.00	\$60.00
Family Membership Renewal	\$65.00	\$130.00
Sole Parent Membership Renewal	\$35.00	\$65.00

Members can complete the application form online. Click on this link to renew your HWR membership [Renew Membership – Hunter Wildlife Rescue](#)

**New** members can join by visiting our website

[Join HWR Membership – Hunter Wildlife Rescue](#)

### \*\*\* HWR Fauna Data due \*\*\*

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 also includes the phone responders records as this is important data as well.

This includes any fauna that may have died in your care, euthanased, healthy fauna relocated to another area, road kill encountered and 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/>

Email your data sheets MONTHLY to: [HWR Data](#)

### \*\*\* HWR Food Bank \*\*\*\*

#### **Food Bankers**

- Maitland Lisa Thompson (Food Bank Coordinator)
- Cessnock Julie Kirkwood
- Port Stephens Anne Williams
- East Lake Macquarie Chriss Beer
- West Lake Macquarie Chriss Beer
- Teresa Purnell will now hold the Live Food Bank for carers.

# HWR Fauna Data Update

<u>Incoming Species</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
Flying Foxes/Microbats	6244	902
Birds	3711	5133
Echidnas	57	78
Frogs/Reptiles	693	898
Koalas	25	24
Macropods	941	888
Possum/Gliders	954	1096
Wombats	67	100
Bandicoots/Dasyurids/Native Rodents	14	11
Marine Mammals	13	5
Non Native Mammals	24	23
<b><u>TOTALS</u></b>	<b><u>12743</u></b>	<b><u>9158</u></b>

## About Hunter Wildlife Rescue

The NATF Wildlife Rescue Service was the first volunteer wildlife rescue group to operate in NSW & was licensed in 1978.

It operates rescue activities throughout the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Maitland, Port Stephens & lower Great Lakes local government areas.

The main objective of the NATF Inc. Hunter Wildlife Rescue is to return all native fauna back to its wildlife habitat when fit to fend for itself.

**All HWR members are volunteers**



# FROGS ON THE BRINK



Above: Mountain mist frog (*Litoria nyakalensis*)

It's unlikely the **Northern tinker frog** will ever be seen again. Once found in a 200 kilometre stretch of mountainous rainforest that stretches from Port Douglas to south of Cairns, Queensland, this little amphibian with a call that sounds like a soft metallic tapping was last seen more than 20 years ago. The **Mountain mistfrog** from the same area has been missing for 30 years, no one has even heard its call, which was described as a soft, slow, popping growl.

These are among more than two dozen Australian frog species close to extinction. A study, which draws on the experience and expertise of a national team of 29 scientists from universities, government agencies, zoos and museums have arrived at a list of 26 species likely to be extinct by 2040.

The good news is that the study also identifies that it's still possible to avert much of this tragedy. By identifying the species most at risk, they aim to give the government, conservation groups and the community time to implement emergency conservation actions before it is too late.

Their study identified four species barely hanging on in the wild without significant intervention may become extinct within 20 years. These are the **Kroombit tinker frog** and the **Armoured Mistfrog** in Queensland; and the **Corroboree frog** and the **Baw Baw frog** from the Australian Alps.

A disease caused by **Chytrid fungus** plays a major role in these declines. For 17 years the Armoured mistfrog was believed extinct from being affected by this disease, but luckily was rediscovered in 2008. This frog was discovered further downstream in the rainforest where it was a warmer and more open stream habitat. The warmer conditions protect the frogs from the fungal disease and probably also provides more food, such as algae, for the tadpoles.



Above: Armoured mist frog (*Litoria lorica*)



Above: Southern Corroboree frog (*Pseudophryne corroboree*)

## CAUSES

- Habitat loss due to development is an issue for 11 of the 26 species.
- Invasive species have impacted 10 species in danger. Tadpoles are being eaten by introduced fish species and by feral pigs destroying delicate rainforest habitats.
- Increased frequency and intensity of fire is affecting half of the species on the list and this is also being exacerbated by climate change.

It is necessary to focus on building resilient populations to give them the best hope of coping with weather changes when they are released into the wild. By maintaining populations in the wild they are also giving them the opportunity to adapt. This has already been seen with some species that were hard hit when Chytrid first hit – but now have shown signs of stabilizing.

By supplementing wild populations with captive bred eggs or frogs they can boost population numbers

# *Animal Cruelty:*

## Joey Wallaby life saved!

**This story may upset some but it must be told!**  
**Young joey set alight to die and suffer!**

Last Friday a call was answered by our Rescue Phone Operator about a small swamp wallaby that two young men had rescued in bushland behind Cardiff.

These two young men were bushwalking as they often do and noticed smoke and went to see what it was. To their horror they found an adult female swamp wallaby dead, she had been shot in the head and what they saw next made them feel so ill.

The smoke was coming from two burning logs that were placed on top of an old cage and placed 3 feet in the ground. Inside the cage was a joey Swamp wallaby.

One of the men raced to the joeys rescue by throwing the burning logs off the cage and in doing that he burnt his hands. He then grabbed the wee animal out of the cage. The joey was in state of shock and terror, shaking like nothing they had ever witnessed. They called for help straight away and the joey was then taken to one of our macropod carers. **These two men are true HEROS!**

The joey had suffered burns to its nose but on assessment by vet Dr Cathy (top right) at Macquarie Vetz at Warners Bay, he was found to be in good condition but in shock and was placed into intensive care. Our carer spent two days settling him down and she has done a wonderful job. He is improving daily, I cannot believe he is so trusting of us humans after what other humans had done to him and his mum. Their intent was to burn him alive, a poor helpless baby as his mum lay dead only a few feet away from him.

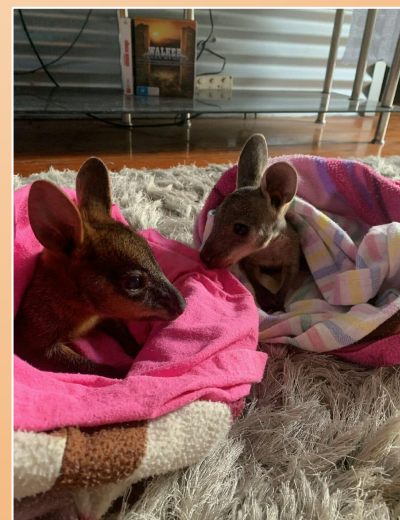
The Police were contacted and have been wonderful with their help. Their concern, as well as what happened to these animals, is that someone is running around the bushland close to Cardiff with a .22 rifle. There were also two heads of dead cats hanging in trees close by to where the wallaby was shot.

In all the years I have rescued and cared for wildlife, this is, I feel the most terribly disgusting act of cruelty I have come across.

If anyone knows anything about this matter PLEASE contact Belmont Police, we need to find these people and see they are dealt with. All carers involved and the two young men, who are indeed heros, and myself have had a very bad time dealing with this all week.

Our little joey will be in care for a long time and he needs your support so please help by giving a small donation towards his welfare in the coming months.

*Warm regards,*  
*Audrey Koosmen,*  
President  
Hunter Wildlife Rescue





# Night time rescue of treetop Corellas in Newcastle

February 24 2022 - 9:30am

LATE Sunday night, Bill Anderson was called to a daring rescue in the heart of Newcastle.

Two white Corellas had become ensnared in a length of carelessly discarded twine and subsequently found themselves caught in a giant fig tree overhanging a stormwater drain in the city.

"They had been there for several hours when I got the call," Mr Anderson said.

"The caller suggested I go and fix it up the next morning but I decided to jump in the truck and do it as soon as I could.

"The poor things had been stuck out there in the heat for some time."

Bill Anderson has been working as an arborist since 1975. About 15 years ago he was contacted by the Hunter Wildlife Rescue Centre because, as he puts it, "they needed someone with my skill set to climb trees and rescue birds".

Mr Anderson talked the Newcastle Herald through Sunday night's rescue.



Bird is the word: Bill Anderson has been working with Hunter Wildlife Rescue Centre for about 15 years, climbing trees to rescue birds which have become entangled in fishing line or rope. Picture: Peter Lorimer

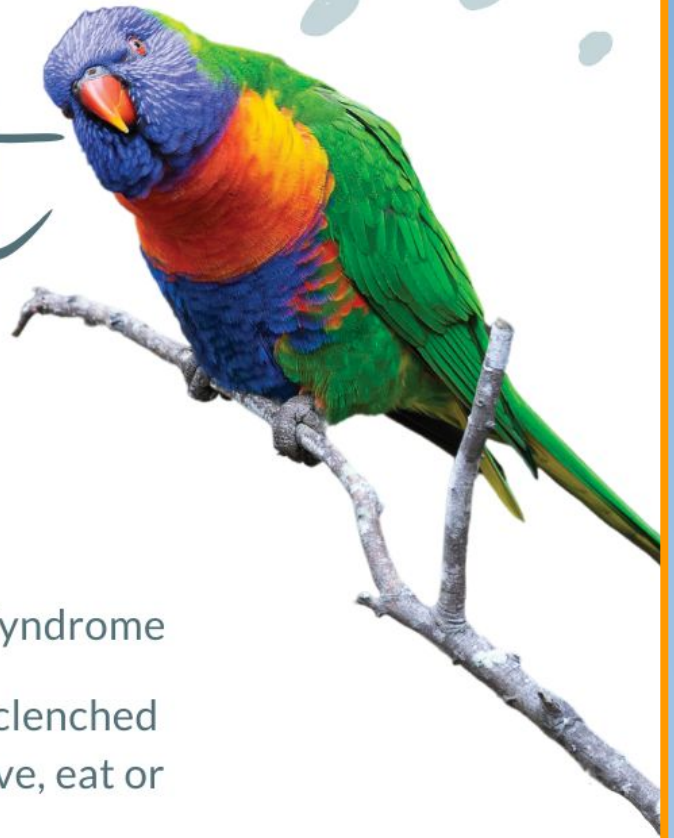
Hunter Wildlife Rescue thanks Bill Anderson for the work he does and has done for so many years helping our birds and all native fauna. Without Bill's support and help many birds would suffer a lot more by becoming more badly injured.

Bill drops everything to help HWR with our fauna when he can, no job is too hard for him. This lovely man is indeed a HERO in our eyes we cannot thank him enough.

Warmest thanks to Bill from all of us at Hunter Wildlife Rescue.

Audrey Koosmen  
HWR President

# Look out for OUR LORIKEETS



<b>PROBLEM</b>	Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome
<b>SIGNS</b>	General weakness, clenched feet, inability to move, eat or drink



## LORIKEET PARALYSIS SYNDROME



Over the past fortnight we have seen an alarming number of lorikeets come into our care with LPS and many have been taken into veterinary clinics by the community who have found them on the ground.

Signs of LPS include hind limb weakness, unable to stand on their own and not being able to fly.

At this stage it is unclear as to what is causing this outbreak. It could be due to many things - trauma, flowering plant toxicity, etc. Some of the community have seen them eating mushrooms that have been growing in the area due to the recent heat and rain.

If you see one of these unlucky birds, please take them immediately to a veterinary clinic. The vets will be able to assess and treat them.

Information supplied by Fletcher Veterinary Practice



# The many Faces and Moods of Tawny Frogmouths

HWR Member and Bird Rehabilitator  
Lisa Thomson from Louth Park



Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*)

## **Feeding and diet**

The bulk of the Tawny Frogmouths diet is made up of nocturnal insects, worms, slugs and snails, small mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds are also eaten. Most food is obtained by pouncing on the prey on the ground from a tree or other elevated perch. Some prey items, such as moths, are caught in flight, which has led to many unfortunate instances of birds being hit by cars while chasing insects that are on the roads where it is easy for them to catch.

## **Behaviours and adaptations**

During the day, the Tawny Frogmouth perches on a tree branch, often low down, camouflaged as part of the tree or a post or sometimes just sitting on the ground.

## **Communication**

A soft, deep and continuous low oom oom oom. Also makes a loud hissing noise when threatened.

## **Breeding behaviours**

Tawny Frogmouths have a regular breeding season, but birds in more arid areas may breed in response to heavy rains. Both sexes incubate the eggs. The male sits during the day, but both sexes share sitting at night. The nest is a loose platform of sticks, which is usually placed on a horizontal or forked tree branch.

**Breeding Season:** August to December. Clutch size: 2 to 3.

# This is an **URGENT CALL-OUT** for more Phonies/First Responders.

We need more members helping to lighten the load for those that have to pick it up when there is no one around.

If you used to do the phones before we were using **WhatsApp**, you can be reassured that it is a lot **easier now** that we have this additional tool. We urge you to reach out to friends and other members to consider training or re-joining the phone first responders group.



To help or for more information, please contact  
Anne Williams on 0498 040541 or Christine Beer on 0407 011389

# Wildlife Rescue Equipment

***We have Rescue baskets back in stock!***

If you'd like to place an order, please message Chriss Beer on 0407011389 to arrange collection.

They cost \$16 each. Please transfer money into our account:

Westpac 14-2209  
BSB 032-524

use your surname and 'Basket' as reference.



## **Fleecy Jacket**

Colour: Navy blue

Logo: Hunter Wildlife Rescue

Sizes: S, M, L, XL etc

Cost \$35.00

If you'd like to place an order, please message Chriss Beer on 0407011389 to arrange collection.

Please transfer money into our account:

Westpac 14-2209  
BSB 032-524

Use your surname and 'Fleecy Jacket' as reference.





# Training and Development Calendar 2022

Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF) provides a broad range of training and development for its members to support the high standards of wildlife rehabilitation required under OEH's *Code of Practice for Injured & Orphaned Protected Fauna* and to ensure the successful return of such fauna back to the wild environment. Any member of an OEH licensed rehabilitation group is welcome to attend.

All participants must send in their registration form at [Training@hunterwildlife.org.au](mailto:Training@hunterwildlife.org.au)

You may not be accepted to attend a training course without the form being lodged by the closing date on the calendar.

Course Date	Course Title & Content	Venue	Time	Cost HWR Members	Cost to Other Wildlife Group Members	Close Date to Register	Payment Due Date
2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022	Management Care and Hand Rearing of Macropods*	Wetland Centre, Shortland	0930 till 1500	FREE TO ALL ATTENDING through the IFAW Training Funding	FREE TO ALL ATTENDING through the IFAW Training Funding	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
16 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Management Treatment and Care of General Water Birds	Wetland Centre, Shortland	0930 till 1500	\$10 per member	\$25 per member	Friday 1st July 2022	Friday 1st July 2022
13 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	Advanced Flying Fox Course on Treatment and Management of Flying Foxes	Wetland Centre, Shortland	0930 till 1500	Free	Free	Friday 29th July 2022	Friday 29th July 2022

\*This course is a beginners course for new members wishing to learn about caring of macropods .

All active macropod carers are indeed invited to attend as well, you're most welcome.

Jodie the presenter is a very experienced Macropod Carer with over 35 years of macropod caring, she brings her worth of knowledge to share.

<b>Course Date</b>	<b>Course Title, Content &amp; Speaker</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Cost HWR Members</b>	<b>Cost Other Wildlife Groups</b>	<b>Close Date to Register</b>	<b>Payment Due Date</b>
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27 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	Management, Care and Rearing of Baby Birds	Wetland Centre, Shortland	0930 till 1500	\$10 per member	\$25 per member	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2022
10 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2022	Management and Hand rearing of baby Flying Fox and Microbats	Wetland Centre, Shortland	0930 till 1500	\$10 per member	\$25 per member	Friday 1st September 2022	Friday 1st September 2022
15 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Management and Care of Reptiles (not snakes )	Wetland Centre, Shortland	0930 till 1500	\$10 per member	\$25 per member	Friday 7th October 2022	Friday 7th October 2022
29th October 2022	Management, Care and Hand rearing of young Brushtails and Ringtail Possums.	Wetland Centre, Shortland	0930 till 1500	\$10 per member	\$25 per member	Friday 21st October 2022	Friday 21st October 2022
19th November 2022	Management and Care of adult Brushtails and Ringtail Possums	Wetland Centre, Shortland	0930 till 1500	\$10 per member	\$25 per member	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Lunch will be catered for you all again through funding by IFAW training Funding.**

**We will need to know of any special diets.**

**Make a comment on your application form when you register please.**

**Parking in CAR PARK 2 on upper road coming into the Wetlands .**



Red Kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*)

*Any news, suggestions or photos for Wildlife Whispers?  
Please email to: [donna.hucker18@gmail.com](mailto:donna.hucker18@gmail.com)*