

wildlife CHAT

The Wildlife Aid Inc. newsletter for members, volunteers and residents of the Upper Hunter Valley who are interested in the welfare of orphaned and injured wildlife.



Mr Grumpyants was sedated 3 times while Pet Medical staff is cleaned him up.

Mr Grumpyants soars again

We will never know the full story behind the circumstance that led to Mr Grumpyants' predicament before he was discovered in a tailings dam at a mine site on the 21st December 2017. Lucky for him he was discovered by a mine employee who pulled this wedge tailed eagle from the muck and placed him safely in a box before calling Wildlife Aid.

Wildlife Aid Bird Coordinator, Meg Pittman, promptly took Mr Grumpyants to Pet Medical Veterinary Clinic at Muswellbrook (who gave this eagle its descriptive name), where he had to be sedated 3 times in order to wash off all the filth from his body, which had hardened into a cement-like substance.

Mr Grumpyants was then cared for with a diet of chicken necks, lamb meat, frozen mice and rats by Meg for a week before being released into the Ravensworth area.

Yancoal Australia (the rescuer) paid the vet bill for Mr Grumpyants, which was over \$1,000. Without this contribution this eagle could not have been saved.

Meg Pittman has been a Wildlife Aid member for two years who runs her own business in Muswellbrook as well as being a much valued Wildlife Aid Bird Coordinator.



Mr Grumpyants recuperates under Meg's care before being successfully released

A quick note from your new editor

Welcome to all new members!

For two years or more I have thought about becoming involved with Wildlife Aid Inc. but didn't know what capacity I could be of use. Although I'd love to help care for injured and orphaned wildlife I was concerned that my living arrangements, time constraints and lack of wildlife care experience would make me inadequate to the task. Well, here I am. I finally joined Wildlife Aid this year and see that we desperately need more volunteers who can offer a variety of support. If, like me, you can't be a wildlife carer, you could volunteer to construct wildlife huts, repair fences, help raise funds, man the phones, welcome new members, coordinate training, sew, be a courier, even write this newsletter!

I plan on putting my website design skills to use over the next few months to revamp our website, making it easier for people to make donations online, join us, learn how to become a volunteer and share wildlife care tips.

Fiona McBurney - Muswellbrook

Wildlife Care Training Courses

- Birds, Adult & Orphaned 15 Apr & 05 Sep
- Possums, Brushtails & Ringtails 27 May & 19 Aug
- Macropods 17 June
- Flying Foxes & Microbats 04 Nov
- Wombats TBA

Courses are coordinated by Native Animal Trust Fund, Hunter Wildlife Rescue Centre, 1 Wetlands Place Shortland. EM: training@hunterwildlife.org.au

Wildlife Aid Inc. Rescue, rehabilitation and release of wildlife in the Upper Hunter Valley of NSW Australia
WILDLIFE AID 24/7 HOTLINE: 0429 850 089

Donations needed urgently

At the Wildlife Aid Inc. AGM, held 18 February 2018 at Muswellbrook RSL, attendees were advised of the desperate lack of funding, which has resulted in limited support for carers being imposed. Until we receive adequate donations Wildlife Aid cannot cover the costs for veterinary care and food subsidies. Volunteers are currently paying full price for food and care, which many carers struggle to afford. Compounding this situation is this current long, dry, heatwave resulting in a need to provide care for more native wildlife in distress.

Wildlife Aid Treasurer, Di Paice, who has been a loyal and hard-working volunteer of Wildlife Aid for over 15 years, has been tirelessly applying for grant funding and corporate donations. Di noted that corporate support has been very difficult to obtain in past years, which is likely to be a result of the recent downturn, and new mining operation owners not yet being aware of how important Wildlife Aid services are to the Upper Hunter region, and how valuable their contributions will be.

This year Wildlife Aid President Erin Pilgrim was recently promised a much needed \$3,000 donation from Glencore Mt Owen Complex; Vice President Tayla Smith set up a Go Fund Me campaign which has, to date, raised \$1,515. Di Paice has just received notification of a \$2,500 donation promise from Wambo Coal Peabody.

Fund raising ideas were brainstormed during the AGM, which will be rolled out throughout 2018, including a "Sponsor A Joey" program, and 2019 calendar. If you would like to volunteer your services to help raise funds for Wildlife Aid please email committee@wildlifeaid.org.au



Winston bumps up the cuteness factor during the Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser. To obtain a fundraising box for your school or workplace please email Tayla at committee@wildlifeaid.org.au. Wombat not included.

To make a GO FUND ME donation visit www.gofundme.com/4sn3f3c

Snapshot of rescues - 01 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

Each year we submit wildlife rehabilitation rescue/release statistics to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the governing body for wildlife rescue organisations across NSW. The figures below do not include animals that are still in care from this period, but still provide an insight into the numbers and types of animals that have coming into our care.

Mammals	collected	released	Birds	collected	released	Reptiles	collected	released
Koalas	2	2	Magpie	63	39	Snakes	36	33
Wombats	13	6	Kookaburra	17	7	Lizards	29	18
Macropods	125	102	Tawny Frogmouth	33	16	Turtles	10	9
Possums & Gliders	54	34	Raptors	18	10	Frogs	collected	released
Flying-foxes	199	156	Parrots	185	122	Frogs	1	1
Microbats	22	22	Seabirds & Waterbirds	19	7		collected	released
Other mammals	19	15	Other birds	132	62	Totals:	977	661

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