

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.



Meet “Muswellbrook Meg, The Coal Miner’s Daughter.”

We don’t get many koalas who come into our care but last Tuesday a koala was found in a muddy 200 foot deep pit of a local mine site.

It is assumed that the koala was startled and fled in the wrong direction, where her fate would have been sealed if it wasn’t for the thoughtful actions of mine employees who called Wildlife Aid to help rescue this mud-caked koala.

Wildlife Aid volunteers Meg Pittman and Julie Smith brought Meg to Port Stephens Koalas for a check up. where the vet cleared her for release. She was brought back to the Upper Hunter to be released into a safe environment away from the mines.



Muswellbrook Meg, The Coal Miner’s Daughter receives a vet check at Port Stephens Koalas.

Meg was affectionately named by the volunteers at Port Stephens Koalas.



Reptile Co-ordinator Wanted

We currently have a vacancy for the reptile co-ordinator. If you are well trained in reptile handling, are a good mentor and know how to keep a spreadsheet you may be the right person for this volunteer position. Support available. **Find out more or let us know of your interest by calling 0429 850 089 or email committee@wildlifeaid.org.au**

Wildlife Care Training Courses

Introduction to the Rescue and Rehabilitation and Hand Rearing of Possums. Cost: \$35
.....19 Aug 2018

Introduction to Captive Management and Rehabilitation of Injured, and Hand Rearing and Rehabilitation of Orphaned Birds. Cost: \$35
.....09 Sept 2018

Introduction to the Rescue and Rehabilitation and Hand Rearing of Flying Foxes and Bats. Cost: \$35
.....04 Nov 2018

Snake Handling Course
Email your Expression of Interest to training@hunterwildlife.org.au
Cost: \$50
..... TBA

A Mange Wombat course will be held later in the year by the Wombat Society.
..... TBA

Listed courses are coordinated by Native Animal Trust Fund, Hunter Wildlife Rescue Centre, 1 Wetlands Place Shortland.
To register email training@hunterwildlife.org.au
For more information go to www.hunterwildlife.org.au

Bird Course by WIRES in Tamworth
25th and 26th of August.
Email WIRES for details on training@wires.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

Oh no, it's nearly that time of year again!

Magpies are notorious for swooping to protect their nesting young during spring. However this article is not about how you can protect yourself from being attacked by a magpie (from personal experience bribery seems to work). This article is about how you can help magpies to raise their young.

During nesting season Wildlife Aid can get quite a few calls from people concerned about baby magpies being abandoned by their parents. It is far more likely that the parent magpie has pushed the baby out of the nest to TEACH the baby how to fly from the ground.

If you see a baby magpie, or receive enquiries from concerned community members, the advice is to leave the baby magpie alone, unless it is in immediate danger from cats or dogs.

If you are interested in becoming a bird carer and you are a member of Wildlife Aid, or would like to join, please enrol into the NATF course taking place on the 09 September. This course is \$35 for members. Download an enrolment form from www.hunterwildlife.org.au. Spring and summer are going to be busy times for volunteers, the more carers we have to assist the better.

Members, don't forget to contact your coordinator if you rescue an animal

As a member of Wildlife Aid, if you rescue and care for an animal please contact the relevant co-ordinator with details. Not only will the coordinator be a great source of advice, but your rescue will need to be recorded and submitted to National Parks & Wildlife NSW and Office of Environment & Heritage, who we are licensed under. This information is important to keep environmental statistics that may be used by government agencies for environmental and funding decisions. **See page footer for coordinator contact details.**



Food subsidies and vet care re-instated after much needed funding received

Times have been tough at Wildlife Aid so we are happy to announce that with recent fundraising efforts and donations from many individuals and Upper Hunter businesses Wildlife Aid have been able to reinstate food subsidies to our volunteer wildlife carers. Vet care subsidies of up to \$40 per animal has also been re-instated, this should cover the consultation fee and meds. Carers are encouraged to use generous low cost vets and should discuss details with their co-ordinator before seeking veterinary assistance.

Wildlife Aid would particularly like to thank the following: Mt Pleasant CHPP & TLO Project, Wambo Coal PEABODY, Glencore Mangoola Coal, Glencore Mt Owen, Muswellbrook Workers Club, Bengalla Mining Company, Thiess Pty Ltd, Muswellbrook Coal Company, AGL Energy.

Welcome new members!

Thank you to the following members for joining our group of dedicated Australian wildlife carers. We look forward to working with you in whatever capacity you are able to assist. (If we haven't made contact with you yet please call our hotline and let us know)

- Catherine Gilmour
- Donna Von-Stanke
- Fred Beckhaus
- Liz Pinner
- Daele Healy
- Kate Morris
- Chris Day
- Kath McLoughlin

Hotline operators wanted

Our 24/7 hotline needs you! If you can spare a couple of hours a week to help man the hotline please, erm, call the hotline. We really need to spread the load a bit so our volunteers don't get burnt-out. Give us a call and we will help get you started.

Call 0429 850 089 or email committee@wildlifeaid.org.au



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