

DECEMBER 2018

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.



Thank you to all volunteers throughout 2018

There are many vital roles our volunteers take on for the love of local wildlife. Sometimes it may seem like a thankless undertaking, the truth is each role that Wildlife Aid volunteers take on is very valued. We have volunteers who travel hundreds of kilometres to rescue orphaned and injured wildlife. We have volunteers who take these animals into their homes for rehabilitation, sometimes with heartbreaking results. We have volunteers who man the rescue hotline, Julie Smith deserves a special mention for her time and dedication. Then there's Helen and David Bird, who have been supplying food, and Chris Sutton who relieved in this role while they took a well deserved break. Then there's Di Paice, who tirelessly applies for funding through grants and requests for corporate donations. Di's efforts have contributed over \$27,300 towards veterinary care and subsidised feed expenses and the Wildlife Warriors school educational program. Thanks to Tayla Smith who set up the Go Fund Me page, which has raised over \$2,900 to date. Thanks to



our volunteers who gave their time at community events to help raise awareness of our group. Then there's our coordinators, the volunteers who provide support to other volunteers and keep tabs of every animal and its progress, without their wisdom and patience many of us would be lost.

We have turned 30! Where are the next generation of volunteers?

Wildlife Aid has been in operation since at least 1998, the year we were listed as an incorporation.

A few long term active volunteers were recently pondering about who the next generation of volunteers will be. If you want to be more involved with our group and don't know how you could contribute then here are a few positions to consider.

Rescue Hotline Operator

Are you a people person who can volunteer certain hours of your week to answer the phone for Wildlife Aid?

Committee Member

Help shape the direction of our group. We need 7 committee members including President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These are elected positions.

Macropod Coordinator

Put your macropod knowledge, mentorship and record keeping skills to good use.

Reptile Coordinator

Put your reptile knowledge, mentorship and record keeping skills to good use.

Food Supply Coordinator

Order and store bulk quantities of feed. Process and invoice orders from members to then collect from you. You will need to maintain stock levels and ensure cash payments are received. Our bulk supplier only delivers as far north as Singleton.

Educator - PROPOSED

In 2019 NSW National Park and Wildlife are implementing changes to how volunteer wildlife rehabilitation services operate. The new scheme has not been finalised, however we are aware that a new

accreditation scheme is likely to require more formal member training. Initially you would keep updated with NPW's progression of the scheme and recommend solutions on how our small group can implement required changes.

Spreadsheet Coordinator -

PROPOSED Work closely with hotline operators and coordinators to collate and marry up records of all calls, rescues, and status of each animal in care into an Excel spreadsheet. This spreadsheet will be emailed to the committee each month, and submitted to NSW National Parks and Wildlife annually as per our licencing agreement.

Email committee@wildlifeaid.org.au to lodge your interest. We recommend you also attend the annual general meeting in February to meet other members.

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

Annual General Meeting

Muswellbrook RSL.

2:00pm Sunday 17 February 2019

All members encouraged to attend. We will head downstairs for a social meal at the bistro after the meeting.

The importance of keeping records of the animals in your care

As part of our NPW licencing conditions, Wildlife Aid are required to submit records of every animal that has been rescued. These records may be recorded in an Excel spreadsheet or maintained in a notebook to be digitally scanned/photographed and transcribed into a master spreadsheet (see proposed position for a Spreadsheet Coordinator on front page).

“To maintain a database of fauna that has entered rehabilitation. Records of fauna admissions represent a vital resource for fauna rehabilitation groups, OEH and research institutions. They can be used to develop better treatments, educate rehabilitators, identify state-wide trends in fauna incidents and identify threatening processes.”

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE NSW (OEH) CODE OF PRACTICE FOR INJURED, SICK AND ORPHANED PROTECTED FAUNA

All phone operators, rescuers, coordinators and care providers need to supply information for the master spreadsheet:

Phone ID No.*	Species	Encounter Date	Encounter Type	Encounter Location	Condition found	Care providers (name and address of the initial assessor)	Name and address of the fauna rehabilitator	Fate details (date, final disposition, location and any permanent marking).
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*If the animals was not rescued via the hotline, the rescuer will need to call the hotline **0429 850 089** to have the information recorded and be issued with an ID number.

Individual carers must also keep a weekly weight chart and record the animal's condition. This information is used to monitor progress of rehabilitation. Submit this information to your coordinator as requested (usually weekly or monthly). In the absence of a coordinator a substitute mentor may request this information.

Further reading: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/wildlifelicences/110004FaunaRehab.pdf

NSW National Parks and Wildlife are reviewing volunteer wildlife rehabilitation services accreditation

NSW National Parks and Wildlife (NPW) are making changes to wildlife licensing, which are set to be implemented some time in 2019.

A separate review from NPW is being undertaken with the objective of implementing a new accreditation scheme

under the BC Act. Existing licences remain valid until the new scheme is implemented.

We will keep members informed of relevant changes.

Further Reading: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-licences/wildlife-licensing-reforms/wildlife-licensing-changes-public-consultation

New Codes of Practice for animal rehabilitators

Codes of Practice were updated for macropods, wombats and koalas in June 2018

If you care for injured, sick and orphaned macropods, wombats and koalas you need to familiarise yourself with the updated

Code of Practice.

These codes are available for download from the NSW Wildlife Council website.

Go to www.nwc.org.au, then navigate to “For Rehabilitators/Codes Of Practice...” then select from the list of codes.

Membership Renewals Due 30 December 2018

To renew your membership in time deposit \$20 into the Wildlife Aid bank account via Electronic Funds Transfer:

BSB: 932-000

Account No: 421036

Ref: Your Name

After the 31st December you will need to complete a membership application form to re-join (available on our website).

Membership is only \$20 per year and covers your licence, insurance and heavily discounted feed.

Keeping Wildlife Aid supportive & friendly

This year saw damaging instances of alleged bullying and gossiping between some members. These alleged instances resulted in resignations of highly valued members, reducing our ability to care for wildlife.

If you become aware of, or are the victim of such behaviour, for the sake of the animals please don't resign. Instead lodge a complaint with the committee. If the committee fails to act, or your issue is with a committee member, or the committee as a whole, you can lodge a complaint with Fair Trading.

EVIDENCE NEEDED

Keep transcripts of phone conversations or screen captures of emails and social media activity to support your complaint.

Wildlife Aid Inc. Committee & Coordinators:

President

Fiona McBurney
0417 228 638
fionamcburney@gmail.com

Vice President

Tayla Smith
0401 260 139
tayysmith95@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Di Paice
0408 414 681
paice7@bigpond.com

Secretary

Wanted

Committee Members

David Munro
0402 581 318

Bev Adams
0406 141 818
baok874@gmail.com

Meg Pittman
0417 042 338
meganp635@gmail.com

Macropod Coordinators

Wanted

Other Mammals Coordinator

Candice Farrell
0468 943 301
candice_farrell@hotmail.com

Bats Coordinators, Bat Banding Authority

Jaala & Colin Presland
0421 018 576
cnj2911@bigpond.com

Bird Coordinator

Meg Pittman
0417 042 338
meganp635@gmail.com

Reptile Coordinator

Wanted

Food & Supplies Coordinator

Helen Bird
0455 119 984
davidbird5@bigpond.com

New Member Coordinator

Fiona McBurney
0417 228 638
fionamcburney@gmail.com