

March 2019

wildlifeCHAT

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.



Current President introduces himself

Greetings, my name is Bruce Mulligan. Previously I have been President of Wildlife Aid.

A few years back I moved to Bathurst and for about 6 months I travelled back and forth to chair the meetings. Then was subsequently advised by NPWS, that I lived too distant from this area and though I was not caring for fauna at this stage, I should resign. This I did accordingly joining WIRES Central West caring for fauna under their banner.

Approximately 12 months ago I moved back to this area recently rejoining Wildlife Aid.

At the recent Annual General meeting I was once more nominated for the position of President, which I happily accepted and was then elected. So I have returned once more.

Some of you will know me well others may have heard of me only. I am very approachable and I will listen. If you have any problem please feel free to discuss this with me.

Bear in mind I abhor bullying, backstabbing and the like.

My contacts: Mobile 0403 314 163 email: bruce2333@hotmail.com



New accreditation system for wildlife carers from July

This coming July rehabilitation licenses will cease in favour of an accreditation system. Whereby if a group fails to meet certain criteria it will have its accreditation revoked. One of the most prominent criteria being the swapping animals of all species between members or otherwise, without the direct and prior approval of the species coordinator of that species. Accreditation will initially be for a period of 3 years. There after it will continue after review for 5 yearly periods.

If you have an animal come into your care you must notify the species coordinator. Contact details for each species coordinator is listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Member Training Opportunities

NATF Training Calendar:

All NATF courses are held at HWR Centre,
1 Wetlands Place, Shortland.
Non NATF Members - \$35ea

Introduction to Rescue and Rehabilitation of Adult Birds

14 May 2019, 9am - 3.30pm

Introduction to Rescue and Rehabilitation and Hand Rearing of Possums

9 June 2019, 9am - 3.30pm

Further Development Workshops with NATF: Bird Hydration, Strapping Injuries, Wound & Crop Feeding Management.

27 April 2019, 10am - 2pm

To Register:

Download a training course form from www.hunterwildlife.org.au

Email form to training@hunterwildlife.org.au

Registrations close 1 week before course date.

For more information go to www.hunterwildlife.org.au

Upcoming General Meetings

Saturday 13th April
Saturday 15th June

at Muswellbrook RSL
doors open 10.00am,
meeting start 10.30am

All members are encouraged to attend.

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

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Letting Wildlife Aid know your training

Have you ever wondered why you have been missing out on opportunities to utilise any training you have completed in rescue or care of a particular species?

At the February AGM this topic was discussed and we now ask members to provide a copy of their training certificates. This information will be forwarded to our hotline operators and relevant species coordinators who will know who they can confidently entrust when choosing to allocate the care of an animal. This should allow for animals to be passed to people more fairly.

Informal training such as mentorship between Wildlife Aid members will not require a certificate.

Photograph or scan your attendance certificates and email to committee@wildlifeaid.org.au each time you complete any training.

Welcome new members

Shelby McIntosh
Cheryl Hutchinson
Bruce Milligan (returning member)
John Lindsay
Amber Moloney
Caitlin Eather
Amanda Morris
Linden Shepherd
Trea Cullen
Sue Stirling

An Interesting Snake Rescue

Written by Bruce Milligan

I received a call from the hotline, to attend a property on Allan Bridge Road in Segenhoe. The foot valve on the pump in a well had failed and needed attention. Owing to the current drought the water level in this well had dropped considerably (approx. 5 metres) the water is 7.3 metres below the top of the well. When the well was originally bored it was probably 10 metres deep and 1.5 metres in diameter, then concrete pipes were lowered into the bore fitting together one on top of the other. Holes were then cut through the pipe below the outside water level and spikes driven horizontally through these holes into the water bearing gravel. The water runs through the spike, filling the sump or well below the spike up to the outside water level. As the ground water level has dropped lower holes and spikes have been installed. As well as repairing the foot valve lower holes and spikes are needed due to the outside water level dropping. The well is housed in a 2 metre square 2 metre high shed.

The day prior to my being called the farmer and his wife went to inspect the work that was required as they had already called a pump business. On arriving and looking down the well they discovered an Eastern Brown Snake inside one of the spike holes in the concrete 7 metres down. They tried several things including leaving a knotted rope at this depth hoping the snake would use it and climb out!

The closest anyone could get to the snake was about 2.5 metres above it because of the pump, owing to it and associated pipe work almost filling the hole. There was a steel ladder down to this point; even climbing down to just above the pump would have proven too dangerous for my liking (too little room) the snake being 1.2 meters in length.

Consequently longer tools were required being 7 metres of 25mm electrical conduit. Down the centre of this conduit was threaded 3mm diameter fencing wire with a thin rope loop on the end.

The conduit was lowered to the snake and the loop placed over its head and a further 300mm down its body, this was then tightened just enough to hold the serpent and the whole thing then withdrawn from the well. I then bagged the creature and relocated it about 4km away.



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