



# Wildlife Whispers

## Upcoming Training Courses

All courses are held at HWR Centre, 1 Wetlands Place Shortland (unless otherwise stated)

Members: \$10  
2<sup>nd</sup> Family Membership: \$5  
Non Members: \$35

### Introduction to Hunter Wildlife Rescue

.....9 November 2019 9am - 3pm  
.....Free to new members

### Remaining Species courses for this year have been cancelled.

If any new members require species training we will undertake one on one training & mentoring.

As part of our improvements future Training Courses will be held during the colder months as it is acknowledged we are at our busiest during the hotter months and find it difficult to attend training.

To register  
email Training Form to  
training@hunterwildlife.org.au  
1 Week before the course date.

While mange is the biggest threat to Wombat population survival, roadkill is also significant.

Building community awareness and getting local councils onboard to help lower road kill is paramount.



## Welcome to Wildlife Whispers...

On the 29<sup>th</sup> Aug & 1<sup>st</sup> Sept the Wombat Protection Society of Australia held a Symposium on mange in wombats. The venue was packed and over 20 presentations were delivered from researchers, vets and rehabilitators working on manged wombats from SA, TAS, VIC, NSW & ACT. It was an informative 2 days covering a wide range of topics:

- Treatment programs from various areas (including us),
- nutrition,
- pharmacokinetics,
- which species are effected (unfortunately our poor bare-nosed is the most susceptible),
- current research into factors effecting mange,
- obtaining regulatory approval for the higher doses of moxidectin required to be successful,
- and lots more.

The *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite is most closely related to spiders. The female mates only once & then burrows into the skin, laying eggs as she does so. She will lay eggs for the rest of her life ~1 to 2 mths, at a rate of 2/3 per day. Female mites are ~.3 to .45 mm long. A wombat may have 1000 mites per square cm of skin.

## Mange most effective treatment...

- All states agreed the effective treatment in current use is a moxidectin based pour on for cattle - usually Cydectin.
- Moxidectin resides in the fat tissue of the wombat and is released from there, the fatter the wombat the more effective the dose.
- Unfortunately, mange effected wombats are not usually fat and so require a higher and more frequent dose than is currently described for wombats.
- A manager of the APVMA (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority) attended & presented on the best way to obtain approval for the higher dose and this is now being done.

## Upcoming Events

- 28 Sept 10am to 1pm **General Meeting** at HWR Centre Wetlands
- Thursday 3 October 10am to 2pm Biodiversity Day at Blue Gum Hills Regional Park in Minmi
  - Visit stalls run by NSW National Parks, Saving our Species, Local Lands Services, Hunter Water, etc Listen to the Welcome to Country & enjoy a performance by an Aboriginal dance group. Interact with native animals at the Australian Reptile Park animal talks. Bring a picnic and share in a free sausage sizzle, Take home a free native plant, Go on a nature walk or culture walk, Learn about volunteering in nature and biodiversity, Enjoy free entertainment, activities, crafts
- TBA HWR Mngt Committee at HWR Centre Wetlands

## Current Fauna Update

Species	Received	Released
Bandicoots	1	1
Bats	140	86
Birds	1261	693
Dasyurids	1	1
Echidnas	14	12
Frogs	2	2
Koalas	18	17
Macropods	211	48
Native Rodents	0	0
Possums & Gliders	287	160
Reptiles	230	179
Wombats	31	14

## Fire Season

Fire Season has commenced and we may call upon you for help during Fire and Heat stress related incidents. Please email Audrey to update your availability [President@hunterwildlife.org.au](mailto:President@hunterwildlife.org.au)

We can all help our fauna by putting out bowls of water and topping up with cool water.

For animals in care adding extra bowls of water in the enclosures will assist with heat stress.

## Pre- Loved Corner

If you have anything to give-away please contact Chriss Beer on 0407 011 389.

If you would like further information on the Wombat Symposium and how to obtain higher doses of moxidectin please contact the HWR Wombat Senior Coordinator, Judith Hopper on 0412 945 659

24 Hour Helpline 0418 628 483 for emergency advice and rescue





## Aggressive Bird Season is here...

A reminder to HWR Phone Operators and members it is the time we may receive calls about our wonderful magpies, plovers, kookaburras and butcher birds dive bombing people while they defend their nests, eggs and chicks. They become very aggressive this time of the year and we may get calls of complaints and concerns about them.

Please remember if you receive calls or asked what we can do we need to provide accurate information.

National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) have an **Aggressive Bird Policy** and this must be adhered to.

Please do not advise the public;

- they can take eggs away
- move nest, eggs or chicks to a different location
- throw eggs in a bin

**To move eggs or chicks it can only be undertaken with Permission and a Permit from NPWS**

*Hunter Wildlife Rescue does not have the authority to provide permission*

**On private land** e.g. nesting near a house

- House or Land owner must contact NPWS
  - HWR does not move eggs or chicks

**On public land** e.g. Council park, nature strips

- Public must contact the local Council
  - The Council must deal with aggressive bird issues
  - Council will often erect signs and or block areas where birds are nesting
  - HWR does not get involved in aggressive bird issues



**On NPWS land** e.g. State Park, National Park

- NPWS will manage all aspects including erecting signs and or blocking areas
- NPWS is required to obtain a Permit to move eggs and chicks

*Hunter Wildlife Rescue does not assist with Aggressive Birds*

It is often not successful in moving eggs and nests to a more suitable location, the parent birds rarely follow, resulting in abandonment. Total relocation will need to be done correctly and carefully on a case-by-case basis with NPWS permission and Permit.

We have an obligation to uphold the NPWS Policy and as such we are required to advise the public of the requirements.

Throwing eggs into a bin could cause the death of an already developed chick which is an animal welfare issue, the RSPCA will take action.

If we receive a phone call or are approached by the Public we can offer some advice to keep our native birds & people safe;

*Detail obtained from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment*

During spring, a bird will sometimes swoop on a person, clacking its beak. While alarming, it is usually just a warning, an attempt to defend its family. This only happens during the nesting season, which lasts a few weeks. So if possible, use an alternate route for a while. A bird may persistently swoop on a particular person yet ignore others. Magpies are the most notorious swoopers.

If you encounter a swooping bird:

- do not stop – walk away quickly
- eye contact will make the magpie less likely to swoop
- wear sunglasses on the back of your head
- wear a hat with a pair of eyes drawn on the back
- wear a bicycle or skateboard helmet, or even an ice cream container or cardboard box
- carry an open umbrella or stick above your head (but do not wave it).