



Wildlife Whispers

Upcoming Training Courses

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

Members: \$10
2nd Family Membership: \$5
Non Members: \$35

Introduction to Hunter Wildlife Rescue

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

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



"Cheeky"

The grey-headed flying-fox is listed as vulnerable to extinction both in NSW & nationally. As their numbers decline, destruction of their habitat remains a significant threat.



Upcoming Events

- 9 November 3.45pm HWR Mngt Committee at HWR Centre Wetlands
- TBA Phonies Meeting at HWR Centre Wetlands – 12th November cancelled due to weather conditions
- 14 December 10am HWR Mngt Committee at HWR Centre Wetlands
- 14 December 12.30-1.30pm HWR General Meeting at HWR Centre Wetlands
- Following the General meeting our Christmas Celebration will commence, please see the

Welcome to Wildlife Whispers...

A new App to look out for!!



The Roadkill Reporter App is intended to be used by citizen scientists to monitor roadkill in Australia. There is no current data but a conservative estimate is 4 million mammals per year. Measures to reduce this number would be assisted if all the roadkill hotspots could be identified, it would then be possible to strategically target these areas to maximise the financial investment available. Simply take a photo & send a report. This will automatically record the time, date & GPS location to a designated website for future analysis. Please share with family and friends as we can all contribute to this initiative. It is hoped to have a National Roadkill Reporting week which will be announced in the media.

Over the next few weeks Vet Clinics will be provided a simpler Vet Form enabling the public and staff to provide key details. A letter will also be handed to the clinics thanking them for their assistance during the year. They will be asked to obtain rescuers and carers names and membership numbers to add to any future invoices for treatment and to contact the HWR president with any problems associated to HWR members. To assist please provide your Authority Card upon request.

Consider adding Glucose Powder to your kit...

- Glucose is a sugar and is absorbed in the mucous membranes of the mouth and is effective on all animals
- Rub a paste of glucose and water onto the gums of unconscious or semi-conscious animals
- The glucose will give the animal enough energy to recover for further treatment

Current Fauna Update

Species	Received	Released
Bandicoots	2	1
Bats	201	115
Birds	1626	1019
Dasyurids	1	1
Echidnas	18	14
Frogs	24	24
Koalas	20	19
Macropods	355	87
Native Rodents	0	0
Possums & Gliders	445	261
Reptiles	267	214
Wombats	44	20

Fire Season

Fire Season has commenced and we may call upon you for help during Fire and Heat stress related incidents. If you have not already done so please email Audrey to update your availability President@hunterwildlife.org.au

Please don't forget to put out extra bowls of cool water for our Fauna!

Pre- Loved Corner

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

- Glucodin powder is a great source of glucose
- Honey contains fructose and fruit juices contain sucrose & fructose NOT glucose!

Cheeky – our official nursemaid!

Cheeky is a grey headed flying fox in permanent care due to her arm being fractured and not healing correctly, consequently she is unable to fly.

I had been monitoring a flying fox currently in rehab known as being pregnant. Cheeky was not hanging with her but protected her when I went into the aviary. During this time she was more attentive to another bat.

After a week of watching and anxiously waiting, a baby was born...but to my surprise it was not the bat I knew was pregnant!! All this time Cheeky knew another bat was pregnant and somehow realised she required her mid-wifery skills more than the bat I was monitoring. She remained ever so vigilant with the mum-to-be even demonstrating how to invert for the birthing!

The second mum had her baby the following morning, now we had 2 babies much to my delight! Cheeky is a great role model and remains vigilant and attentive to both the mothers and babies by ensuring she is between them and me at all times. She has never threatened me, she just calmly places herself where it is clear I am not needed!

Cheeky is the matriarch of the rehab Camp and takes her mid-wifery and intensive care nursing roles seriously. She is an asset to HWR as she is responsible for saving many bats over the years!

By Connie



The baby Bat season is here...

Tiny naked microbats are starting to turn up and baby flying foxes are on their way.

Calls for any bats must be treated as urgent. This is regardless of whether the member of the public tells you it's 1cm long or 30cms long. As per the normal rule of thumb, don't believe it until you see it.

Adult flying foxes, can rest on power lines and are electrocuted when they extend their wings for take-off. The baby usually survives and can be rescued. Adults surviving electrocution will be found on the ground or hanging low, they will not be on the power line.

All flying-foxes reported on power lines, barbed wire fences or netting must be checked by a vaccinated carer as it may be a live baby on its own or a live baby on a dead mum which can be extremely difficult to spot. Any flying-fox on the ground or hanging low must be checked urgently as will be a baby or an injured adult. Any microbat reported must be checked as it could be a live baby.

Members of the public (MOPs) should not handle any bat. If they are concerned for the bat then they can place a box over it, or prop up an umbrella to provide safety or shelter.

Flying-foxes (also called fruit bats) are nomadic mammals that travel across large areas of Australia feeding on native blossoms & fruits.

Bats are the only group of mammals capable of sustained flight.

They play an important role in Australian environments because they are natural pollinators & seed dispersers. They are crucial for the survival & regeneration of our native forests and are important for local honey production. They also provide food for other native animals such as owls.

NSW Health advises that the public should **avoid direct contact with flying-foxes**. There is always the possibility of being scratched or bitten leading to infection.

Flying-fox camps in public places, such as parks, school grounds and residential areas, can sometimes raise concerns about possible health risks for community members. Concerns include flying-fox infections, noise, odour and the impact of flying-fox droppings on houses, cars, and washing.

Human infections with viruses borne by flying-foxes are very rare.

As a HWR member if you are not vaccinated you can still assist a vaccinated carer in various ways.

Australian Bat Lyssavirus

- Bat Lyssavirus is only found in the saliva of infected animals for a short period of time – they do not continually carry the virus.
- The virus can only be spread to other animals & people through the bite which must go into deep muscle tissue.
- Australian Bat Lyssavirus is not spread through flying fox urine or droppings.
- There is only one report of Australian Bat Lyssavirus infection in a wildlife handler who is thought to have been bitten by an insectivorous bat.

Hendra Virus

- People cannot contract Hendra Virus directly from flying-foxes.
- It is believed some horses catch the Hendra virus when they eat food which has recently been contaminated with an infected flying-fox's urine, saliva or birth products.

Living near Flying Fox colonies

- Living near a flying-fox camp does not pose any risk for infection with these viruses.

Droppings

- Direct handling of flying-fox, animals and bird droppings should be avoided.
- Animals (includes pets) and birds carry a range of bacteria in their guts which do cause a range of nasty diseases.