



O.N.A.R.R Newsletter

WE ARE WHAT WE PROTECT: THIS IS WHAT DEFINES US.

January 20 cutoff date

History sheets due

History sheets are due by the 20th April. Send them as soon as possible to Susan please.

Nil reports can be rung in by leaving a message on Susan's mobile. If you have not yet read the Power Point on Caring Records and History Sheets, please do it now and confirm by email.

Please try hard not to be late with your sheet.

RAFFLE 2023

The raffle is being drawn on the 6th of

April. By now, we hope all of your ticket stubs have been returned to Beverley, and funds deposited to the account so the stubs can be added to the draw.

We wish you all the very best of luck in winning the raffle, but there are only three prizes!



"Wilderness without wildlife is just scenery."
~ Lois Crisler

Presidents Report - March 2023

Hi everyone.

It will be nice when the weather cools down a bit, as that also means the animals are starting to slow down as well. Now is the time to refurbish your aviaries, clean walls and replace branches and mulch or hay on the floors. Check there is nothing living in spare boxes that shouldn't be there...

It was pleasing to see that the grants that Bev spends so much time on have helped a lot of carers. Another grant came from Morten Bay regional council this month for an indoor cat pen plus food which will be handed out to those members who are caring at the moment.

Do not forget about the workshops that are coming up especially those of you who have not done one for a while. The list was sent out this week, along with a request for raffle funds and stubs to be returned as soon as possible as it is drawn on the 6th.

Yours in Caring
Linda D'Arcy
President

Management Committee			Possum Register		
Linda	President	3269 6310	Linda	(North)	3269 6310
John	Vice Pres.	0400 097960	Beverley	(Ipswich)	3294 6264
Melissa	Vice Pres.	0407 030457	<u>Gliders</u>		
Ray	Treasurer	3294 6264	Beverley	(Ipswich)	3294 6264
Beverley	Secretary	3294 6264	Bat Register		
Bat Register			Bird Register		
Dee		3206 8165	Linda	(North)	3269 6310
Dee - Mobile		0419 105436	Beverley	(Ipswich)	3294 6264
Macropod Register			Other Fauna and Reptiles		
Janine		0421 516444	Linda	(North)	3269 6310
Anita		0428 710684	Beverley	(Ipswich)	3294 6264
Membership enquiries			BIRO (BIRDS)		
Beverley	admin@onarr.org.au	3294 6264	3208 3512		
Workplace Health & Safety Officer			RSPCA Wildlife Hosp.		
			3426 9910		
Cathy		0439 759289	Seabird Rescue		0404 118 301
Australian Wildlife Hospital (Australia Zoo)					
Wildlife Emergency Hotline 1300 369 652(24 hrs.) Appointments - Ph. 5436 2097					
Reptile Rescue 1300 878903					

My Mission is to save lives. My dream is that one day I won't have to...

Numbers and species for the last Quarter

Possums	Birds	Flying Foxes	Reptiles	Other Fauna	Macropods
Brushtail possums 17	1 Crested Pigeons 64 Rainbow Lorikeet 31 P.B. ducklings 2 Wood ducklings	3 Black flying-foxes	3 Blue tongue lizards	1 rodent	1 Red necked wallaby
Ringtail possums 35	4 Butcher Birds 1 Tawny Frog. Mouth 3 Mud Larks	1 Little Red Flying-Fox		5 Northern Brown Bandicoots	1 Red kangaroo
Mountain Brushtail Possums 1	2 Cockatoos 3 Galahs 11 Scaley Br. Ioris 3 Noisy Miners 4 kookaburras	2 Microbats			2 Eastern Grey Kangaroos
Sugar/Squirrel Gliders 2	1 Blue Faced H. E. 3 Bush Stone Curlews 1 Quail				
Feathertail gliders	2 King Parrots 4 Sacred Kingfishers				

MACROPODS - Anita Thompson

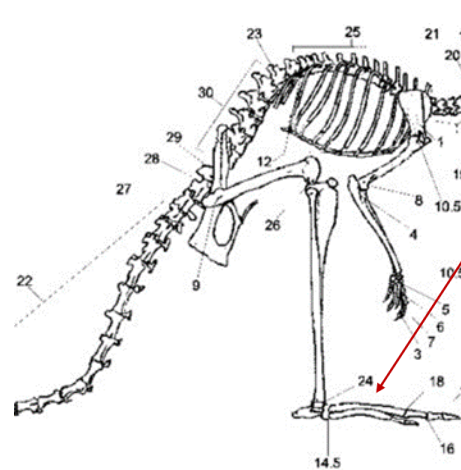
A DEDICATION TO TWIGGY 08/ 2011 to 01/ 2023

Twiggy was an eastern grey that came into my life back in 2010. She came from a carer that had had an emergency and couldn't care for her any longer.

She was fully furred but still in a pouch, so about 8 months old.



She also had a broken leg, which was in a cast. She was called Twiggy after the 1960's model who was very thin and willowy. Twiggy was also very small and had very thin arms and legs- hence the



name suited

her. She had broken her lower long bone, as shown in the diagram, just jumping awkwardly.

She had been taken to the RSPCA hospital, and under anaesthetic had a pin placed in it and a cast added. She was going to have to be taken back in in 6 weeks, put under anaesthetic again to remove the pin

and have yet another cast.

She was obviously very stressed when she arrived, HATED me (would hiss at me if I came near), which made feeding very difficult. She had diarrhoea for 2 months, which refused to respond to ANY treatment, so she also lost more weight.

Having just lost a few joeys in a row and feeling very despondent about the success of rearing joeys, let alone releasing them successfully, I gave Twiggy NO hope of survival.

BUT survive she did. She went back for her second surgery, and finally started to have normal poo. She paired up with another male I had and to my surprise, they both successfully soft released onto my property in 2012.

Twiggy always stayed close to home and never really joined with a mob, probably because her leg meant she couldn't keep up with them. However, she stayed with the male and had several joeys with him, until he died about 6 years later. Since then, she remained largely on her own and had a joey once a year for at least 10 years. She would regularly come home (at least 3-4 times a week) for a few pellets and oats that she really loved. She would often stand next to our bedroom window and "cough" to let us know she was there.





SO why a story about Twiggy? Well, she holds a very special place in my heart. If ever a joey should not have survived, it was Twiggy. Despite a leg that was never 100%, she still got around and managed to have many joeys. We still have daughters/sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren of

Twiggy visit. So, for those carers out there that have lost a few and sometimes aren't sure if the time and energy are worth it, Twiggy gives you hope. I know she did me when I was about to give up caring all together. Sure, you lose some, but young joeys die in the wild all the time. Sure, you may be concerned about how they will manage in the wild, but they surprise you with their resilience and good old instinct.

It was a very sad time in January this year, when I realised Twiggy had not come to visit for 3 days. She had been slowing down a lot lately and had just weaned her last joey. She of course had another in pouch, but it was very young. I searched everywhere for her, hoping it might not be too late to save the in-pouch joey, but to no avail. I found this strange, when all her life she had stayed close to the house but who knows what could have happened.



She was a distinctive very dark colour, with amazing soft fur like a rabbit and a very dished head. All her offspring were like this, so her family remains very easy to identify.

RIP Twiggy. You were remarkable. To her last day she only just tolerated me!!!



Twiggy with her last joey

Anita Thompson

FLYING-FOX report - Dee Smith

Little Lulu graduated from creche to release beautifully, in fact the pups that were raised and sent for release were all well-adjusted juveniles.

We have had a few microbat rescues recently, a Sheathtail, Little Forest bat, but the one that I was excited to hear about and see the picture of was a White-striped Free-tailed bat. It was shiny and black, not our usual little brown job that usually comes into care. Found on the ground out Ipswich way at our Possum carer Vicki's place. Thanks for the photo Vicki and getting it to experienced Microbat carer Trish.

Did you know Microbats eat up to 60 percent of their body weight in insects a night? This makes them great mozzie exterminators.



Microbats also echolocate which means they use sound to enable them to navigate and find food in the dark. They produce echolocation by emitting high frequency sound pulses through their mouth or nose and listening to the echo.

We will be learning more about microbats at our next bat workshop on the 20th May.

Dee.



This one is not a local!!

Pygmy Possums - Linda D'Arcy

Pygmy possums are becoming endangered. They live in the Australian Alps at high altitude where it is always cool to cold temperatures. They hibernate for short periods from a few hours to a few days during winter, and along with their blossom and nectar diet, they rely on a food source which comes from the Murray basin. The food source is a Bogong moth which migrates to the Alps to mate. The moths usually come on mass, hiding among the rocks and crevices. Unfortunately, with clearing of land and using agricultural sprays, the numbers of moths have declined which also has an impact on the possums decline in breeding - instead of thousands there are only hundreds.

Pygmy possums are tree-dwelling marsupials. From head to tail they can be as large as 12cm and, fully grown, as small as 5cm! They weigh between 10g and 50g. (Wikipedia)

They have large eyes, large ears and long whiskers. Their soft, fur coat is fawn to grey on top and white underneath. Like many marsupials, their long tails swell with extra fat in times of plenty.



Another interesting fact about the dingo fence in NSW - they kill the dingoes in NSW but scientists and researchers have found on the QLD side of the fence where the dingoes kill the feral cats and foxes, they have found the return of a lot of the native animals as well of flora - all due to the dingoes keeping the predators down.

Rainbow lorikeets (RBL) and Scaly Breasted Lorikeets (SBL) - Beverley Clarke

Lorikeet Paralysis Syndrome LPS

If you have been keeping track of our numbers of registered animals and birds, you will find that there has been a large number of rainbow lorikeets and scaly breasted lorikeets coming into care through lorikeet paralysis syndrome - LPS. We have had 64 rainbows and 11 scaly-breasted lorikeets in the last 3 months!

This is a seasonal syndrome, and usually only occurs during the summer months on the eastern coast of Australia. Since the summer of 2019, there have been particularly high incidences of the syndrome reported.



Lorikeets, both RBL and SBL usually present as being unable to fly, with varying degrees of paralysis in the wings and hind limbs. Severe cases can present with the bird being unable to swallow or blink.

The syndrome can be characterized into 4 categories, depending on the severity of clinical signs. All the birds usually have a typical altered squeaky voice and cannot fly.

Category 1: the most severely affected birds that are unable to move their entire body (wings, legs, and head), are unable to right themselves when placed on their back, are unable to blink and unable to swallow. Usually euthanized.

Category 2: birds can stand but are severely ataxic (lack of coordination) when trying to hop and are unable to blink. Depending upon body condition these birds may also be euthanized.

Category 3: birds can stand, are severely ataxic when trying to hop but are able to blink. Time in care. Easy access to food.

Category 4: less severely affected birds that can hop around and can blink. Time in care to regain flight ability.

Most birds, apart from category 1, will recover with veterinary supportive treatment consisting of rehydration with subcutaneous fluids, pain relief and cage rest with easy access to food and water. Category 1 and 2 require eye drops in their eyes twice a day until blinking and crop-feeding three times a day until able to self-feed. Once the birds start flapping their wings and are able to get a bit of lift off the floor (this usually requires at least 3-4 weeks), they should be moved to an aviary until they have regained their full abilities.

Wildlife disease experts have been investigating this syndrome and a wide range of tests have been performed. The current investigation has found no evidence of an infectious disease as the cause of this syndrome. **The cause of LPS is not known**, but all the evidence points to it being caused by a toxin. Possible causes, including botulism toxins, environmental toxins and plant toxins are being investigated. One of the missing pieces to the puzzle of LPS is what the lorikeets are eating that might result in their exposure to environmental toxins.



Beau and Cooper - contented after a feed - hopefully no LPS in their future.

When RSPCA ring they often have between 4 and 15 of these birds needing care. On average, the birds only require aviary time of up to 2 to 3 weeks until they are flying properly again. Feeding once in the morning with Lorikeet and Honey eater mix, and a bowl of dry food and water, plus some forage in water if you have some spare (I use my old possum forage). I find they also appreciate a larger bowl on the ground to bathe in. I put them all on the ground to start with, and over a few days you start to see the improvement in their capabilities. Some come in able to fly short distances and others can only hop or wobble.

Due to the high numbers of birds that have been coming in, if you have the space to take on some of these birds, please let me know so that I can direct RSPCA your way.

What Is Rat Lungworm?

Rat lungworm, or *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, is the most common cause of neurological disease in tawny frogmouths.

Rat lungworm is known to cause neurological disease in various species, including dogs, wallabies, foxes and birds. It is the most common cause of eosinophilic meningitis in humans. Adult worms live in the pulmonary arteries and right ventricle of

rats. Larvae are shed in rat faeces, which are ingested by intermediate hosts, usually slugs and snails. They molt twice inside these intermediate hosts to the 3rd larval stage and are, as such, infectious to rats and other hosts.

Once swallowed, the larvae cross the host's intestinal wall, spreading via the bloodstream and lymphatic system to the brain and spinal cord. Their movement, and the swelling it produces, cause neurological signs (and marked pain in humans).

Sydney University veterinary pathologist and study co-author Derek Spielman explains that rat lungworm originated in south-eastern China and has been expanding worldwide since World War II. It developed in semi-tropical environments and first gained its Australian foothold in south-eastern Queensland. Climate change may well be aiding the increase of this parasite. Rat lungworm doesn't require exotic mollusc species, so it's been able to infect a wide range of locally found intermediate hosts.

What Are The Symptoms?

Key clinical signs of rat lungworm include severe muscle weakness or paralysis of the legs, followed by progressive weakness of the wings and subdued mental processes. Frogmouths rescued early in the disease aren't able to land or stand and can be picked up easily.

HOW IS IT TREATED?

While symptomatic treatment is usually successful in people and dogs if the disease is picked up early, the **prognosis for affected wildlife species isn't good**, as wildlife is often not brought in and diagnosed before permanent neurological damage has occurred. Additionally, if they don't die, they will not be functional enough to survive in the wild, so euthanasia is often the only alternative.



Controlling the definitive hosts (the introduced black rat, *Rattus rattus*, and the Norway rat, *Rattus norvegicus*) reduces the prevalence and risks of rat lungworm infection.

*Source article, with thanks to The Veterinarian - 'Wildlife sentinels reveal expanding distribution of rat lungworm', February 25, 2013, Anne Fawcett. *Reference - Ma G, Dennis M, Rose K, Spratt D and Spielman D (2013) Tawny frogmouths and brushtail possums as sentinels for Angiostrongylus cantonensis, the rat lungworm. Veterinary Parasitology 192:158-165.*