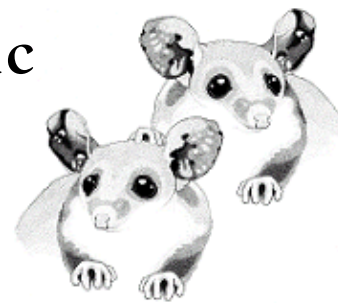


Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers Inc

NEWSLETTER



April 2003

Organised for caring ...

Inside this issue:

2002—a difficult year	2
AGM—New Committee & Rules	3
2002 Audited Financial Statements	4
Carer Reporting Procedures	5
NPWS Licence Renewal, Changes and Conditions	7
New Policy on Carers needing Financial Assistance	8
Bird Workshop: 14 June	11
'Buddying up' Birds	11
... and more	

Don't Miss This!

**'Longueville Park'
Alpaca Stud**
*hosting the next
General Meeting*
26 April, 1pm

**A tour of the stud,
site of the new
TVWC macropod
release pen, will be
followed by the
meeting.**

**See details and
map on page 10.**

(Note date change too)

New Newsletter Team

This is the first issue of the TVWC Newsletter being put together by the recently-elected Editorial team.

The team is made up of:

Helen Joakim
Ilona Roberts
Dave Pinson

We are aiming at having a different theme for each newsletter, as well as keeping members informed of important issues and developments, dates to remember, etc.

This issue will focus on a range of TVWC organisational matters, on procedures and obligations, on constitution and office bearer changes and other aspects of being *organised for caring*.

Sounds boring, but ...

Organisational matters are often boring, especially compared to the hands-on animal care aspects of the group. However, in order for TVWC to effectively rescue and rehabilitate the wildlife in our area, we need to be organised.

Being organised for wildlife caring is imperative. It means:

- ◆ Coordinating many people, activities and facilities, over a large geographical area.
- ◆ Ensuring appropriate policy and day-to-day organisational decisions are made through com-

mittees, office-bearers and coordinators.

- ◆ Meeting the conditions set by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to ensure we continue to be licensed as a wildlife care group.
- ◆ Providing training for members in order that they can competently care for animals.
- ◆ Ensuring we have the financial resources necessary to function as a group, which means fundraising and building support from the public.
- ◆ Following on from this, it means ensuring our financial resources are well-managed and effectively utilised.
- ◆ Encouraging people to become members and to play an active role in the

group, so that the workload and responsibilities are spread across many people.

- ◆ Playing a role in the education of the general public in the needs of, and stresses put on, wildlife in the Tweed.
- ◆ Keeping accurate animal records – to measure our effectiveness, to have past experience to call upon, and to provide to NPWS.
- ◆ Ensuring our legal obligations are met, as well as being accountable to our members.

This newsletter covers aspects of all these organisational points. **Please** take time to read it, in order that we can provide the best care possible for our native animals within our legislative, financial and human resource constraints.

TVWC members attending the AGM on 22 February



2002—a difficult year

By Ilona Roberts, 2002 Acting Secretary, Phone Coordinator and Acting Bat Coordinator

Being a phone volunteer is like being "an air-traffic controller – you have to get animals out of trouble and organize things without being able to grab the controls and fly the thing yourself."

A Special Thanks

Meredith Dennis, Acting President in 2002, spoke for all members at the recent Annual General Meeting when she thanked Ilona Roberts for all her work during 2002. If it were not for Ilona's commitment and hard work, the group would not have survived through 2002.

Overall, we were busy during 2002 because of the drought and because the rate of development in the Shire is such that native fauna are injured and displaced.

Disappointments

Firstly, as Secretary I have to express some disappointment that meetings have been less than well attended, despite efforts to keep the business part brief, despite reducing the number of meetings by half and despite my efforts to get interesting guest speakers.

In any group there need to be decisions made about policy and what to do about various matters arising, but I was hoping that the meetings could also be about the exchange of ideas and an opportunity for members to get to know each other.

Similarly, the workshops which were held during the year were poorly attended by the group, despite the excellence of material and presentation. The reason for the existence of this group is that native animals get into strife and we undertake to give them another chance to make it in an increasingly hostile

environment. To do this requires a level of commitment and dedication, and the understanding that some form of training is mandatory.

At present there are some 80 members, but fewer than 30 are willing to care for animals, to rescue or transport them, to volunteer for the phone, or to assist in fundraising, administration or the newsletter.

Workshops attended

Shayne Faust presented our only bird workshop last year, but it was of great value to new carers and gave them the relevant information for starting out. Other workshops attended by (a very few) carers were excellent ones organized by Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers and Clarence Valley WIRES, and included basic snake handling, bird rescue and care, bat and flying-fox rescue and care, and a general basic care course.

Lance Ferris also presented a seabird workshop and a couple of months later gave an impromptu demonstration of pelican catching and handling, during one of his rescue visits to the area. We are in his debt for the assistance he has given

our group on several occasions.

During the year, we were fortunate to have Robyn and John Gough and Cheryl Cochran as guest speakers – the names of the Flying-foxes accompanying them escape me! Also, Shona Peters from Currumbin spoke to the group about rescue and short-term care of raptors, which I'd been looking forward to but missed because of a Flying-fox needing rescuing from a barbed wire fence.

Thanks to Lisa Dunn

The newsletter maintained its high standard, thanks to the efforts of the editor, Lisa Dunn, whose work and study commitments will mean someone else will have to step into those shoes. Lisa also conducted a computer workshop, and produced an excellent manual on email which even the likes of yours truly could follow. She also generously gave her time to rehabilitate the group's elderly computers.

Great Job by Phone Volunteers

Again the phone volunteers have done a marvellous job.

I think this is one of the most demanding tasks; I've said at times I feel like an air-traffic controller – you have to get animals out of trouble and organize things without being able to grab the controls and fly the thing yourself.

We always need more people to do phone duty, so if you are interested in a day a week, fortnight or month on the front line, let me know.



2002 Office-bearers L-R: Meredith Dennis, acting President; Belinda Wright, Treasurer; Ilona Roberts, Acting Secretary. Meredith and Ilona stepped into the roles on short notice after those elected to the positions could not take up their positions.

AGM—New Committee & Rules

... But No Secretary!

The Annual General Meeting, held at the CWA Hall in Murwillumbah on 22 February, was a great success. Twenty-three people attended, including several new members. It was a good opportunity for the new and 'old' to meet, as well as to catch up with some old friends.

New Office Bearers

Of course, the major reason for the AGM is the election of Office Bearers for the year. Most of the positions were filled. However, the vital Secretary position is still vacant, with Ilona Roberts and Helen Joakim currently sharing the role until it is filled.

New 'Teams'

The Fundraiser and Publicity Officer positions are now a Fundraising/Publicity Committee, with several members sharing the load. Given that

we did not have anyone in either position last year, resulting in virtually no fundraising taking place, we hope that this group can come up with and see through some good ideas, sharing the load and providing backup for each other.

Also, rather than one person putting together the Newsletter, a team will now do so, with the Animal Coordinators encouraged to take a more active role, also.

Rule Changes Passed

Two changes to the TVWC Constitution were passed unanimously at the AGM:

- ◆ On advice from solicitors who had checked over our Constitution, the policies that currently form part of the Constitution are to be removed from it.

- ◆ Currently, a member who does not pay his or her annual membership fees continues to be a member until three months after the AGM. This rule was changed so that, to remain a member, annual subscriptions must be paid by the commencement of the AGM.

Changes Approved

Under our Constitution, rule changes must be approved by the appropriate Minister (in this case, the Minister of Gaming and Racing!).

Also, under State legislation for Incorporated bodies, as we are, Constitution changes must be approved by the Department of Fair Trading.

The changes were submitted to both of these bodies and we have now been informed formally that the changes have been accepted.

Membership Fees Up

The AGM passed a small increase in the annual membership fee – from \$20 to \$22 per annum – to cover GST which is payable on these fees.

Have you paid your Membership Fees?

Although the rule changes are now officially part of our Constitution and the increased fee took effect immediately, for current members who have yet to pay their 2003 fee, which was due on 31 December 2002, the old 'rule' will still be in force and the old fee of \$20 will apply for this year.

However, if you haven't renewed your membership already, **please** do so as soon as possible. **TVWC needs you!**

Position	Member
President	Ilona Roberts
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Helen Joakim
Reptile Coordinator	Peter Burnheim
Bird Coordinator	Christine Goff
Seabird Coordinator	Vacant
Bat Coordinator (from May 2003)	Dave Pinson & Sue McArthur (Ilona Roberts acting till May)
Marsupial Coordinator	Jennifer Thomas
Membership Officer / Records Officer	Sue Johnson
Committee Members	Elizabeth Coles Erin Murphy, Nadine Maddecks
Phone Coordinator	Ilona Roberts
Newsletter Editorial Sub- Committee	Helen Joakim, Ilona Roberts, Dave Pinson
Fundraising/Publicity Sub-Committee	Marie Ellis, Pat Betts, Belinda Wright, Meredith Dennis, Sonia Sheppard, Phil Washington

Wanted: One Secretary

Tasks:

Organising meetings, workshops, record-keeping, minute-taking

Requirements:

Organised, good administrator, sense of humour, long-suffering ...

Benefits:

Warm fuzzy feeling knowing that your organisational skills are helping the Tweed's native animals.

2002 Audited Financial Statements

The 2002 audited financial statements, prepared by Mr KW Parker of JK Gregor and Associates, are presented here for members' information. The Auditors expressed the following:

"In our opinion the financial statements present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, Associations Incorporations Act (NSW) and other mandatory professional reporting requirements the financial position of Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers Incorporated as at 31st December, 2002 and the results of its operations for the year then ended."

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			
For the year ended 31st December, 2002			
Income	\$	\$	\$
Donations – NPWS, Tweed SC	2700.00		
Donations – General	<u>1142.15</u>	3842.15	
Members Subscriptions		945.45	
Fundraising		105.80	
Training Courses		25.00	
Interest Received		7.27	
Sundry Income			20.00
Sale of Goods – Wildlife Books	560.00		
– Wombaroo, etc	1380.55		
– Promotional Items	<u>35.00</u>	1975.55	
Total Income			\$6921.22
Expenditure			
Advertising	621.36		
Audit Fees	318.18		
Bank Charges	134.10		
Depreciation	1527.40		
Filing Fees	38.00		
Insurance	557.78		
Meeting Expenses	204.00		
Postage, Printing & Stationery	469.12		
Repairs & Maintenance	314.09		
Seabird Rescue Boat Expenses	257.18		
Telephone	288.87		
Training Courses	17.95		
Veterinary, Animal Care Costs	3080.22		
Sundry Expenses	347.05		
Cost of Sales – Wildlife Books	495.91		
– Wombaroo, etc	1475.75		
– Promotional items	<u>(208.50)</u>	1763.16	
Total Expenditure			\$9938.46
Excess of Expenditure over Income			(\$3017.24)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
As at 31st December, 2002			
Current Assets	\$	\$	\$
SCCU – General	1075.06		
– Fundraising	4228.21		
– Seabird Rescue	<u>2765.18</u>	8068.45	
Stock on Hand – Wildlife Books	305.00		
– Wombaroo, etc	792.60		
– Promotional Items	<u>1370.50</u>	2468.10	
Cash on Hand			135.50
GST Recoveries			248.00
Sundry Trade Debtors			<u>230.50</u>
Total Current Assets			\$11150.55
Non-Current Assets			
Equipment - Seabird Rescue (at cost less depreciation)		75.60	
Shares - SCCU		30.00	
Total Non Current Assets			\$105.60
Total Assets			\$11256.15
Current Liabilities			
Sundry Trade Creditor		120.00	
Total Current Liabilities			\$120.00
Total Liabilities			\$120.00
Net Assets			\$11136.15
Members' Equity			
Balance 1st January, 2002			14153.39
Less			
Excess of Expenditure over Income for year			<u>(3017.24)</u>
Balance 31st December, 2002			\$11136.15

Ilona Roberts
(02) 6676-6259
Murwillumbah
regions & south

Shayne Faust
(07) 5524-9094
Tweed Heads area

As a result of the annual audit of our stocks of Wombaroo and other animal products, we discovered that the prices we were charging were not covering postage and handling, nor stock that needed to be dis-

carded because it was past its use-by date, damaged, etc.

As a result, the animal products, sold through members Ilona Roberts and Shayne Faust, will be increased by 10% to ensure costs are met.

This still means that they are significantly cheaper than through other outlets, eg vets, pet shops, etc.

Call Ilona or Shayne for your supplies.

Helen Joakim, 2003 Treasurer

Wombaroo Products – Price Increase

Carer Reporting Procedures

By Sue Johnson, Records and Membership Officer

It is really important that members follow the correct procedures when rescuing, caring for, and transferring animals. Our Licence from the NPWS is dependent upon us fulfilling certain conditions, including keeping full records of animal rescues and deaths, and providing annual statistics on our activities to NPWS. (see page 7)

Our funding depends on it!

Good record keeping also

helps us monitor our own activities, allows us to refer back to a similar animal or circumstance in the past, etc.

The flowchart below, hopefully, clarifies the steps from the time we are notified of an animal needing our help through to its release, death or transfer.

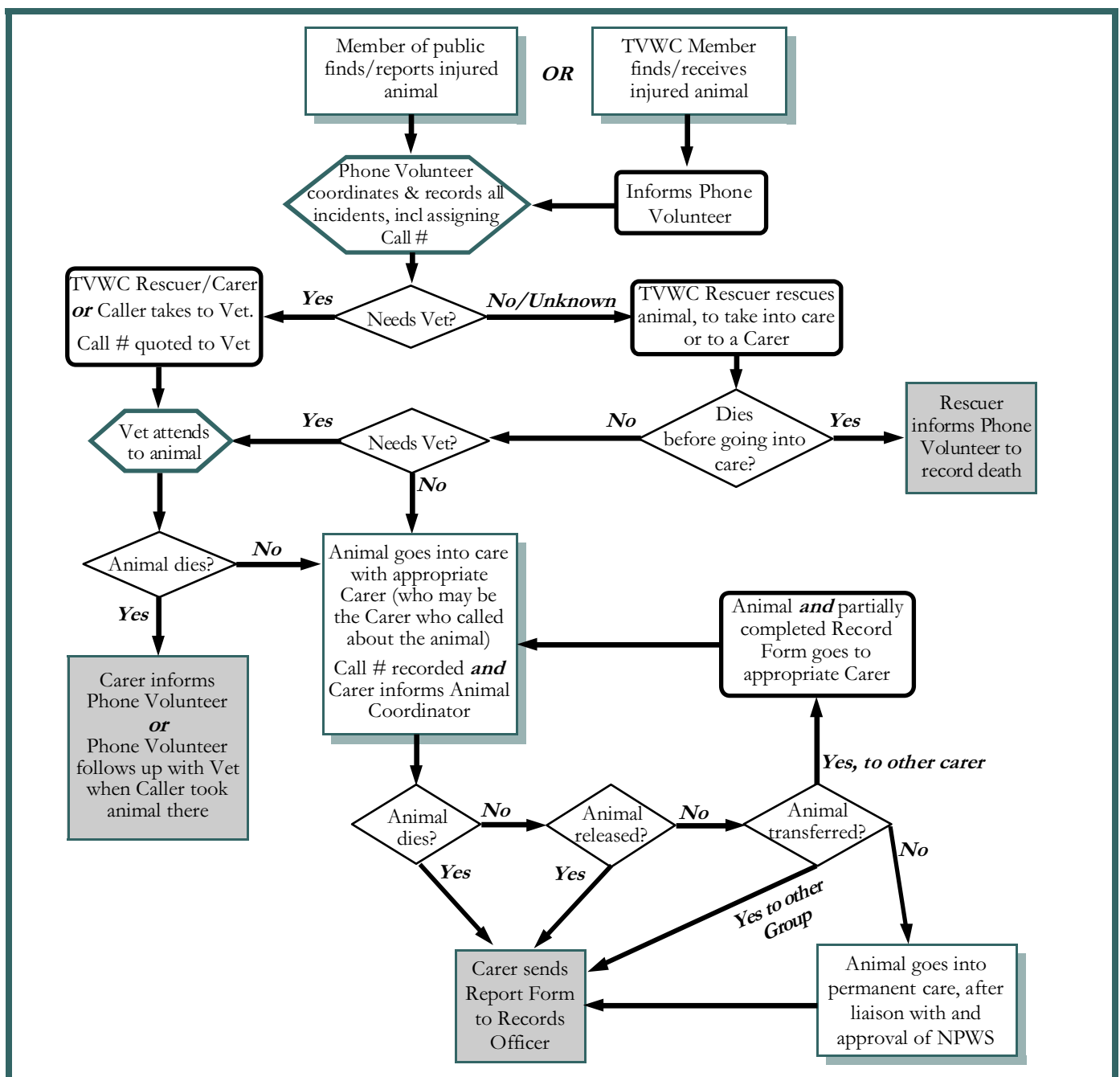
Along the way, there are alternative paths that need to be followed and various possible outcomes. Ultimately, however, the end point in every situation

is record-keeping, whether through the Phone Volunteers' Call sheets when an animal never makes it into care or the Foster Carer Report form when it does.

A Foster Carer Report form has been included within this newsletter, for you to copy.

Carers, you must promptly send appropriate records to the Records Officer, whenever you reach the last 'shaded box' in the chart below.

If you have Microsoft Word and are interested in an electronic, automated Foster Carer Report, email: suemjohnson@bigpond.com



TWEED VALLEY WILDLIFE CARERS INC

Established since 1989

PO Box 898

Murwillumbah NSW 2484

☎ 02 6672 4789

✉ email: wildlife@tvwc.org

🌐 website: <http://www.tvwc.org>



Rescue, Rehabilitate, Release

Foster Carer's Report

Carer _____ Call No. _____

Animal _____ Date _____

Collected From _____

Initial Assessment _____

Age _____ Sex _____ Colour/
Markings _____

Condition: Birds

Feathers _____ Eyes _____ Body _____

Condition: Animals

Skin/Fur _____ Body _____ Mouth _____

Vet Assessment _____

Treatment Regime _____

Feeding Regime _____

Outcome

Animal Released Date of Release _____

Released by _____

Animal Died Date of Death _____

Cause _____

Animal Transferred Date of Transfer _____

Transferred to _____

Comments _____

NPWS Licence Renewal, Changes & Conditions

In January our National Parks and Wildlife Licence GL 1155 was renewed until 30 September, 2003, rather belatedly. We also received our funding for the year – \$3,900.

We are not automatically re-licensed each year, but must continue to meet certain conditions.

Among those we must meet, is the supplying of statistics on our activities to NPWS, hence the importance of proper record-keeping.

A Reminder ...

Carers must be aware of the conditions under which they are allowed to rescue and rehabilitate animals. Below is a summary of the most significant conditions set by NPWS. **Please** take a few minutes to familiarise yourself with them.

Changed Licence

Last month, we received a letter from NPWS, informing us of a change to our Licence Number – to GL 10051 – and to their licensing and reporting

period, from 30 September to 30 June.

The significance of this for TVWC is that we must prepare new membership cards, change various documents, and revise our record-keeping procedures to ensure we can meet our obligations.

Iiona Roberts and Helen Joakim are looking at these and will raise the main issues at the next Committee and/or General meetings.

Contact Sue Johnson for a copy of the full NPWS Licence Conditions. Call (02) 6677-1224 or email suemjohnson@bigpond.com

NPWS #	Summary of Significant Conditions
2.	Carers, apart from having to live within a defined area of Northern Rivers and be over 18 years, must undertake appropriate training for the rescue and/or rehabilitation/hand-raising of the fauna they come into contact with, unless they have relevant previous experience that TVWC believes justifies their being exempted from training.
6.	TVWC must maintain an annual record listing the species, date, location of original encounter and reason for the taking into care of all native fauna rescued, or relocated, where housed, and the date and location of release, euthanasia or other fate of that fauna in the twelve month period.
7.	TVWC must submit a summary report of the above records each year.
8.	Carers must report, within seven days, in the manner determined by TVWC – which means to the appropriate Animal Coordinator – about any animal that comes into their care.
9.	To ensure animals aren't held for an excessive period that may jeopardise their successful rehabilitation, TVWC must implement systems to regularly review the rehabilitation and record the fate of every animal that comes into care.
10.	A successfully rehabilitated or hand-raised animal must be returned to a suitable natural environment at the locality of the original encounter.
11.	Approval must be sought from NPWS if any animal is to be released into a park or reserve managed by NPWS.
12.	If the locality of original encounter is unknown, the animal must not be returned to the wild.
13.	An animal with a permanent disability that will preclude it from leading a normal life and surviving in the wild, must not be returned to the wild.
14.	Animals that can't be returned to the wild can be, by following set steps and meeting strict conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Offered to a fauna park or zoo. (b) Retained in permanent care for the purposes of providing an essential companion animal to others of its species undergoing rehabilitation or as part of an approved educational or scientific program. (c) Retained as a pet, in the case of a bird species commonly kept as a pet. (d) Transferred to the appropriate animal-keeping organisation, eg RSPCA, in the case of what is assumed to be an escaped pet.
19.	TVWC shall not permit any public viewing, including the carrying or feeding of animals in public places; display or exhibit for promotional or other purpose, any live native animals held under this licence, unless as part of a TVWC training course.

Required Urgently: More Members & Carers

Currently, TVWC has 80 members, but of these only 29 members are available and trained to care for animals, with another 20 or so able to rescue and transport animals, but not care for them.

Of course, we have a wonderful network of Phone Volun-

Below L-R: Norell Paterson, Rosemary Eva, Liz Coles and Nadine Maddecks, at the last General Meeting.



Above L-R: Ilona Roberts, President; Sue Johnson, Records and Membership Officer; Josh Roberts (no relation to Ilona!), one of our newest members.

At the General Meeting held after the AGM on 22 February, the issue of assisting carers who were experiencing difficulty in meeting the costs of rehabilitating animals in their care was discussed.

Some carers have an uneven burden placed on them because of the type and number of animals they care for, eg when there are very few other carers with the facilities and/or expertise or because of the special requirements of some animals, etc.

A new policy was passed unanimously that carers

teers and others who help out with organisational aspects of the group. However, for such a large geographical region, 29 active carers is not enough.

Our challenge is:

- ◆ To recruit more members and get them trained up and enthused.
- ◆ To support those carers who do so much of the rehabilitation and hand-raising work of the group, ensuring they do not get burnt-out or disenchanted.
- ◆ To encourage as many members as possible who are not currently caring for animals to become carers. Often this means, getting those who are "having a rest" from caring, back to caring. To do so, though, means we need to have more carers so that they don't get burnt-out again! It is a vicious circle!

As a start, the group has formulated a new policy on providing financial assistance

to carers in need (see below), and we have a Bird Workshop scheduled for 14 June (see page 11).

We are also trying to make meetings more interesting and a social as well as "serious" occasion, hence the site of the next meeting. (see page 10)

Do you have Time, Energy and/or Ideas?

But, we need more help! If you have time, energy, skills, and/or ideas that would be valuable, please let us know.

Or Publicity Skills?

Of course, attracting more members is crucial and to do so we have to make ourselves known. Perhaps your skills lie in publicity? Or you are available to call around and find out about interesting animals or situations that would be "news-worthy" to the local newspapers?

Please, if you can do more, contact an appropriate committee member or Animal Coordinator, and/or come to the next General Meeting.

New Policy on Carers needing financial assistance

experiencing difficulties in covering their food expenses may apply to the Committee for financial assistance, nominating the amount they think is reasonable to be paid. The Committee will then make a decision on each application.

The assistance may even be in the form of the supply of some of their Wombaroo or other animal food products.

Of course, the group is not able to cover all carers' costs, and people who become wildlife carers because of their commitment to native

animals are aware that costs are involved. However, some members are caring for a disproportionate number of animals, and are not in the financial position to do so.

TVWC has a responsibility to them, especially when there are insufficient carers overall, and a high proportion of members do not participate in the care of animals.

Carers who find themselves in this situation and wish to apply for assistance should contact:

Helen Joakim
(02) 6677-1224

Bat Report

By Ilona Roberts, Acting Bat Coordinator

2002—two seasons in one year!

Flying-fox season in 2002 kept us busy. Because of the awful events at Dallas Park in January, it seems like we had two seasons in the one year.

We had several babies during the year. To look after one is quite time consuming, as they require lots of TLC and attention. To have two is still manageable, but for me three was totally out of control. Several times I ended up with three, and seemed to spend my entire day running from one to the other.

Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers have been wonderful, finding carers and organizing transport. In all, I estimate we had a dozen babies pass through our hands during the year. Kerry Tasker has raised three in all, and I have raised two to creche age.

At the time of writing, I still have *Bitey-Mouse*, who may be ready for second creche, but who has weakness in her legs which may mean she gets held over until next year, or even goes into permanent care. My first male, *Bat-Boy*, developed into a magnificent

fellow, who was well over the weight he should have been. Carol from Grafton WIRES, who has him in pre-creche, says he's just a big handsome male – all muscle!

In 2003 ...

On New Year's Day, I got a call from Dallas Park, the caller reporting that some animal had got into his roof guttering the previous night and he could hear it scrabbling all night and most of the morning. He didn't think it was a possum, but he'd seen a goanna at some time.

So, with this in mind, I disrupted Phil Washington's peaceful day, and he kindly went to investigate. It turned out that two Grey-headed Flying-foxes, probably mum and bub, had somehow not made it over the rooftop, and had slid into the gutter, and been unable to crawl out.

Unfortunately, we didn't get the call until around midday. So, by the time Phil got there, one of them had perished and, instead of just being able to let them rest up and send them on their way a night or two later, we had one dead and one traumatised 10 week old juvenile, who never was able to settle down.

I contacted Robyn Gough (who should be declared a living treasure) and she said to bring him to her place outside Alstonville, which I did.

At 10 weeks he was too old to establish into the routine we have for younger bubs – he'd had those weeks in close contact with his real mum and he needed to be around his own kind. I had had him for two weeks so he was ready to socialize in any case. So, he was able to settle in very quickly among the small group Robyn already had.

Bat Coordinators

I am looking forward to the return of Dave Pinson and Sue McArthur who will take on the Bat Coordinator position in May. This will mean the number of vaccinated and trained bat carers in the group will almost double!

Below: *Bitey-Mouse*, still in care as this Newsletter goes to print, because of problems with her legs, hanging from Ilona's macrame wall hanging.



Knox Park Rescues

A recent major activity for the group involved Knox Park in Murwillumbah. Tweed Shire Council contacted us about Knox Park pond, which was being drained over several weeks – what a mess!

We were asked to attend to capture and rescue any turtles which may have been found but, because of the appalling state of the pond – the mud was rancid, full of garbage

and used syringes – we were unable to get in to get anything out until we had satisfied all their health and safety requirements.

Jim O'Regan, Jenny Thomas, Klaus Fuhrmann, Ilona Roberts and Phil Washington gave their valuable time to this effort, and we were able to rescue an ibis which was up to its neck in mud and had been like this for several

hours (special thanks to Phil), and a spoonbill which was suffering from botulism. Four turtles were eventually rescued, and several eels. Most of these were released at the Byangum bridge.

As a thank you, Tweed Shire Council is going to donate some equipment. We have been getting measurements of cages, etc for a wish-list for them.

Contact Ilona Roberts on (02) 6676-6259 if you are interested in becoming a Flying-fox carer.

NB: a series of vaccinations are required.

Next Meeting at 'Longueville Park'

The next General Meeting of TVWC will be a bit different ... it is being held at Longueville Park, the alpaca stud of TVWC Committee member Liz Coles and her partner, Rosemary Eva. A macropod release pen is cur-

rently being erected at Longueville Park, which backs onto Mooball National Park, an ideal site for the release of Swamp Wallabies and Pademelons.

Be there at 1pm for a tour of the stud, and the site of the

release pen, followed by the meeting.

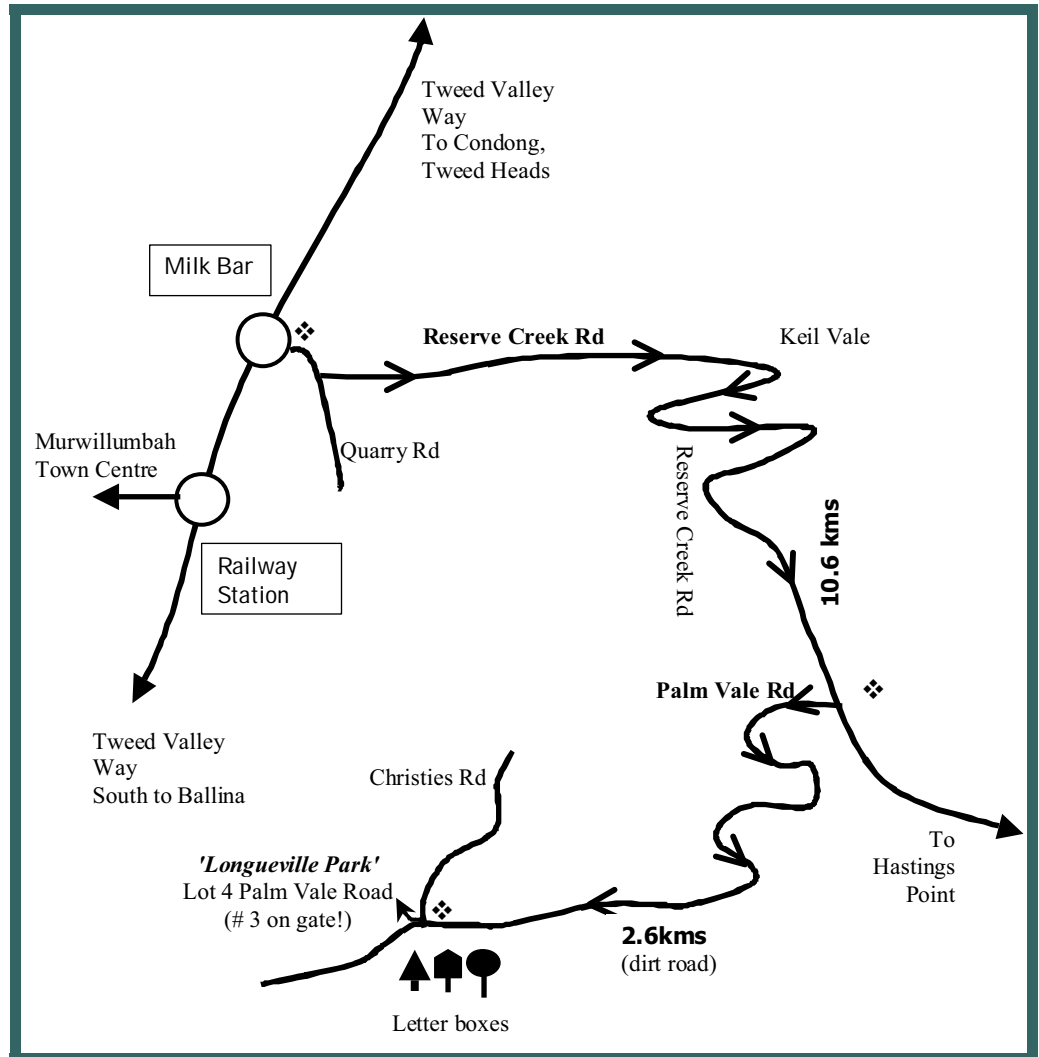
Car Pool to Meeting

Meet at Reserve Creek Road roundabout at 12.30pm if you are interested in car pooling or getting a lift to the meeting.

General Meeting

26 April 2003
1pm

'Longueville Park'
Lot 4
Palmvale Road
Palmvale



Turtle Rescues

If TVWC carers find a turtle on the beach, or get reports that one has come ashore and is in distress, Lance Ferris of Australian Seabird Rescue has requested that we contact him.

He has appropriate equipment and trained volunteers who can be underway at short notice.

A turtle which has come ashore

should **not** be pushed back into the water. It should be moved to a shaded area, if this is possible.

If it is not, some sort of shade should be rigged up to protect it from the sun.

Wet towels can be draped over it to keep it cool.

Turtles have a slow respiration

rate – it may only take one breath every 20 or 30 minutes. So, because it hasn't breathed for several minutes, do not assume it is dead.

They also are capable of biting, so take care.

NPWS should also be informed of the animal's location.

TVWC Bird Workshop: 14 June

Intro for New Members & Refresher for Old

Clem Claythorn, from WIRES in Grafton, will be presenting a workshop on birds on Saturday, 14 June.

Clem is renown for his workshops which are very hands-on and will stand new carers in good stead to look after their first birds.

TVWC member Phil Washington, who recently attended one of Clem's bird workshops, says "I've never attended any training before

where my attention was held every minute and where I learnt so much!"

Although the workshop is primarily aimed at new members, all bird carers need to be reminded that TVWC *Policy for Active Carers* states that "Carers must attend an appropriate training day every two years as a refresher course in order to retain the authorization to care for specific species."

**14 June, 2003
10.30am–4.30pm**

**CWA Hall,
Queen Street
Murwillumbah**

Cost: \$5.50 (inc GST)

**You *must* Register
by 30 May**

**Phone Ilona:
(02) 6676-6259**

'Buddying up' Birds

By Christine Goff, 2003 Bird Coordinator

Well, once again I have taken on the role of Bird Coordinator for the group.

Several years ago I saw a need for the group to have somebody 'buddy up' bird species of the same kind and, as I was the one who suggested it, I ended up with the job!

Listed below are some of the reasons why buddying up is beneficial to both carer and bird:

- ◆ It is far less time-consuming and cheaper to have birds in care that require the same diet, rather than preparing food for birds with various dietary requirements. It saves on the washing up as well!

- ◆ It saves housing space. Birds of the same species can sometimes be kept in an aviary together.

However, always observe behaviour of birds when first introduced, particularly if they are not the same age or size, as some can be real bullies.

It is a good idea to introduce the newcomer in a cage within the aviary and let the others get used to it for a day or so. Then just open the door of the cage and observe.

- ◆ Birds do not imprint with humans as easily if they have a little feathered buddy that talks their language.

- ◆ Birds learn 'birdy' behaviour from each other and will recognise their own kind when released.

- ◆ Release time can also be less stressful and more successful, for all concerned, if birds are released in pairs or groups rather than singly.

To make care of birds easier and more successful for all, if you have a bird in long-term care, you should contact Christine Goff, the Bird Coordinator, to organise 'buddying up' of this bird with others of the same species.

**Contact Christine on:
(07) 5523-9262 or
04 1480 9288 (mobile)**

If you have a bird in long-term care, you should always contact Christine Goff, the Bird Coordinator. She will organise 'buddying up' of this bird with others of the same species, as well as provide great advice..



Two baby galahs blown from a palm in strong winds. They were reared with two others and the happy little flock was released successfully.



Dates to Remember

April 26 – General Meeting

1pm at Longueville Park, Palmvale (see page 10 for details)

June 14 – General Meeting

9.30am before Bird Workshop at CWA Hall, Murwillumbah

June 14 – Bird Workshop

10.30am at CWA Hall, Murwillumbah (see page 11 for details)

August 2 – General Meeting

1pm at CWA Hall, Murwillumbah

October 4 – General Meeting

1pm at CWA Hall, Murwillumbah

December 6 – General Meeting

1pm at CWA Hall, Murwillumbah

**A Red dot here
means that your
Membership dues
are overdue.**

**Call Sue Johnson
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Renewal form, if
you have
misplaced your
copy.**

What people are saying about the TVWC Website:

“I have just been looking at your website and must congratulate your group on it. It contains some really useful and interesting stuff, and is a pleasure to look through. Keep up the good work.”

Norma Henderson
(author of *Australian Bird Rehabilitation Manual* and other books)

www.tvwc.org