


Big Scrub 222676 ✓

→ Byron EC 857066  
Clarence 431863 ✓  
community centre 856807

→ Dailan Pugh  882248  
Nimble EC 891492 ✓

RIC 222339 ✓

Serendip 877804 ✓

Bello 552266 ✓

T.M Tedder 665690802 ✓

NVCA 065642808 ✓

ArmidaletWS 067711155 ✓

→ Greg & Sisie <sup>065</sup> 504517

Tamworth EC 661642245 ✓

Barry & Mary 065773001 ✓

Newcastle THS 049295940 ✓

Notes of Summer Ed  
+ NEPA meet.

ABCDEFGHIJ **BLGraph Demi** *Belmerat* **BEFFEL**

*A N Script* **Bellbottom** Beniolo **Black oak**

**ANDSITE** *Brush script* *Calligraphy laser* **Chicargo**

Architect Limer d B **Limer H** Limer R *Lucinda Blackletter*  
*Lucida handwriting*

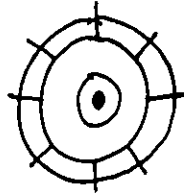
Artic 2 **M b Medium** *Mary dale* *COcath FLF* **MKT Bold**

Ashley *Modular/lack* **STENCIL** Σψμβολ **V6 lucina sans:**  $\frac{a}{b} \frac{7}{8} \frac{1273}{161} \frac{10}{71} \frac{6}{8} \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{45}{64} \frac{c}{\lambda}$

**B B Bold** V5 Lucinda sans:  $\int \mathbb{E} \square \Omega \mathfrak{Z} \mathfrak{U} \mathfrak{V} \Psi \mathcal{P} \mathcal{X} \mathfrak{Q} \mathfrak{G}$   
 $\Leftarrow \Uparrow \mathfrak{L} \mathfrak{O} \mathfrak{S} \oplus \mathfrak{F} \mathfrak{D} \odot \mathfrak{X} \mathfrak{P} \mathfrak{A} \mathfrak{f} \mathfrak{R} \mathfrak{x} \mathfrak{w} \mathfrak{V} \mathfrak{H} \mathfrak{I} \mathfrak{h} \Rightarrow \rightarrow \Rightarrow \mathfrak{M} \mathfrak{b} \leftrightarrow \Leftrightarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \Rightarrow \mathfrak{G}$

participating in the management of their own communities. Statecraft is something monarchs and rulers engage in, and is completely divorced from the citizenry. Our society is barely *political* in this sense if it only bothers with supporting "political" parties and voting. When it stands outside city hall and proclaims its demands, when it engages in direct action, when it openly discusses and debates the issues of social management within *society* and not just within the parameters of *statism*, then *societys* becoming *political*, in the full historical meaning of the word.

The blurring of our rich, vibrant language has not been without its political motivations and implications. These distinctions between the social, the political and the statist are crucial if we are to meaningfully explore *societology*. In the next couple of editions of *NEFA* *Law* will pick up from the politically dead post-war generation described above and try to describe and educe the regrowth from then through the tumultuous if naive 60s era and to today. From there we may hopefully be clear not of our historical *inequality*, to use the traditional liberal and leftist historical motivator, but real ecological potentiality. NEFA itself grew in no vacuum, but was able to be cultivated because of the developing soil of environment centres, NGOs, grassroots media, and solid affinity groups, which themselves each have a long, often difficult evolution, and are informed by the mistakes and naivities of a whole generation of counter-culture. What new potentialities does NEFA, and other confederally networked alliances, present us with now? This is a social ecological question, and that's what I'm getting at.



Hi there megaspunks! Just came  
across these amongst the chaos of my  
filing system. Might be good to chuck  
in the GRAPHICS BOX.

Don't know if you need any gap fillers for LEAF (or if too  
late). Put these in just in case.

- Aust. supports at least 25000 species of plants
- In Aust.'s arid deserts there are more species of reptiles than exist  
in one environment anywhere else on earth.
- $\frac{1}{2}$  of the rainforests in the world have already been destroyed.  
The remaining  $\frac{1}{2}$  is being cut down at the rate of 250 million  
acres a year.
- Another species becomes extinct every  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour (worldwide)
- Forests are like families,  
spanning generations,  
fulfilling their lives & being replaced in time.  
The big difference is  
that forests are being felled  
whilst in their prime  
to build homes and farms and cities.

Djitedjitnah  
Love TEEN //

## THE NORTH COAST FREEWAY (Another road to oblivion)

The NSW Government in conjunction with the Federal Coalition Government have allocated funding to build a freeway from Raymond Terrace to the Queensland border. This is not an 'upgrade' of the existing highway it is a completely new, four lane road to be built on a cleared strip 50 to 150 metres wide through all types of terrain.

While all other 'developed' countries have realised the futility and damage of freeway development, our politicians are still grovelling to the motor vehicle and road transport interests. This highway will put millions of dollars into the pockets of these interests - all at taxpayers expense.

The Carr ALP government came to power promising that a tollway across Byron and Tweed Shires would not be built as the environmental and other costs would be excessive. They have backed down after receiving a Federal Coalition bribe. Local ALP middleweights are embarrassed by this secret but, as usual, are too intimidated by the right-wing headkicker to do anything about it.

The tollway project was subject to public comment, but it has been presented as a fait accompli with only the usual token public comment process on the route. In brief, the effects of this project will be:

- \* More traffic and a halt to any improvement in public transport.
- \* Destruction of the lifestyle and infrastructure of the coastal villages as the enhanced access to Queensland population centres creates huge development pressure.
- \* Fragmentation and destruction of wildlife corridors and habitat.
- \* Increased runoff and destruction of productive farmland.
- \* Unknown flood barrier effects as global warming rewrites the worlds weather patterns.
- \* Years of traffic disruption.
- \* Destruction of wetlands, increased erosion, and clearing of rare vegetation.

The RTA admits that accident problems on the current road could be reduced by simple upgrading measures. This with the rerouting of heavy vehicles onto an improved Summerland Way and other inland routes would fix current concerns at a fraction of the cost of the freeway. It would not, however, suit the big interests and their political lackeys.

An umbrella organisation of sixteen environmental and community groups has been formed to fight the freeway. The 'No Freeway Coalition' is currently designing a TV advertisement to try and raise awareness of the problem it will also be holding a number of meetings and running a seminar.

We need more groups to lend their names to the project so please contact Tom Tabart on phone/fax 066 771057.



Tom Tabart  
Spokesperson, NFC

# COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS OF FORESTS UNDERWAY

Dailan Pugh, conservation representative on RACAC.

The Governments who promised to establish a Comprehensive Adequate and Representative (CAR) national reserve system for forests, that was to be identified in Comprehensive Regional Assessments (CRAs) by 1995 are dragging their heels. To complement the identified "world's best" national park system there was to be ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM). A new language has been born, a tangle of acronyms that encompasses many fine sounding words which are given new definitions as governments attempt to render them meaningless.

In East Gippsland (Victoria) the first model "CRA" has been completed. The Victorian Government and their foresters, with the complicity of the Federal Government, ensured that it was simply a rubber stamping of existing reserves and policies. Conservation got a few crumbs and the loggers got the rest, clearfelling and woodchipping had a big boost with 20 year guarantees being given.

In NSW we have had our Interim Assessment Process (IAP) and the CRAs are underway. Unlike in any other state, forest campaigners were involved in the IAP and have been given unprecedented and meaningful involvement in the NSW forest CRAs. We have been sucked into an ever proliferating tangle of acronyms, processes and meetings (partly of our own making). This does not mean that we can necessarily restore, and have implemented, the true meaning of the fine sounding words. We are a minority, though we are given a chance to present and argue our case at all levels. Our attempts to make the assessment as rigorous and comprehensive as possible are definitely influencing the process.

There are six CRAs on the agenda: Eden, Upper North East, Lower North East, Southern, Central and Western. Eden is due for completion this year, the Upper North, Lower North and Southern sometime next year, with Central and Western following sometime thereafter. The timelines are slipping, with Eden unlikely to be finalised this year and the Upper North lucky to be completed by the end of next year, the others will be sometime later. Conservationists are asking for an Interim Assessment Process (IAP) to be conducted for western NSW this year.

We maintain our objections to the regional boundaries adopted because areas which are data rich have been combined with others about which little is known. This will mean that the limited time and funds available will be spread thinly, vainly trying to bring the data poor areas up to speed while not being able to ensure that data collection for the well known areas is the best achievable. Social communities have been thrown together, with the tablelands communities being lumped in with coastal communities (ie Bateman's Bay is in the same region as Tumut and Gosford is with Armidale), making community representation, networking and meetings difficult, to say the least.

Twenty three member (3 conservation) Regional Forest Forums (RFFs) are currently being formed to enable people within regions to have some input into the process. Despite the membership being agreed by all parties the Federal Government later intervened to add two more timber industry people.

At the State level, the assessment process is broken into four categories; 'Environment and Heritage', 'Social and Economic', 'Ecological Sustainable Forest Management' (ESFM), and

'Forest Resource and Management System' (FRAMES - a new inventory of timber resources). The assessments under these categories is overseen by (Technical) Working Groups (TWGs). The process is governed by a joint steering committee.

Membership of all these is based on the principle of 4 commonwealth bureaucrats, 4 state bureaucrats and 4 non-government representatives (two NCC, one timber industry and one CFMEU). True to form the Commonwealth also forced NSW to add the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) to the steering committee. Aboriginal representatives are recent welcome additions to the steering committee and E&H TWG. All the TWGs are in the process of developing strategic plans, with urgent projects being given priority approval.

Fauna (vertebrate) surveys are currently being undertaken throughout the five coastal CRA regions, with the emphasis for this season being on Eden and the Upper North (hopefully winter surveys will also occur and further surveys undertaken next season in the other three coastal regions). Targeted surveys for cryptic (only detectable from flowers and fruit) rare and endangered plants are finally underway in the Upper North (too late for Spring flowerers, and thus the species requiring targeting in Eden).

A trial has begun to review and extend oldgrowth mapping across all land tenures using aerial photographs, this project will also map broad forest groups across private forests and collect more detailed data for timber resources on state forests. Projects are currently being developed on forest ecosystem mapping, invertebrates, genetic sampling, species profiles and climate change. There are still many other environmental projects that will be clearly identified in the Strategic Plan.

Given Eden's short time frame, numerous social, cultural, economic and timber resource projects have been approved. There has been a start with cultural and social assessments of the Upper North, though most substantive work will wait until after the Strategic Plans are finalised.

In summary: the process has been slow to get moving; we are not able to necessarily get deficiencies in projects rectified or get up all the projects we consider vital; at least we know where the problems lie and how the assessments are being done; we are having an affect, the projects are far more rigorous and comprehensive than they would otherwise be; there are many good things happening; and, this is the first time that conservationists have been involved at such a detailed level in such a large scale assessment.

Irrespective of how good the process turns out, it becomes a political decision as to what the final outcome will be. That means that anyone who is concerned about the future of our forests should attempt to keep abreast of developments and let others know what is happening, so that when it comes down to politics the community is ready to make sure the right decision is made.

Beneath the jungle of acronyms and 'airy fairy' words lies the fate of some of the most intact and ancient ecosystems left on this continent. The future of stands of 2,000 year old Brush Box, penetrated by repetitious calls of Marbled Frogmouths and whistles of Sooty Owls, of magnificent Spotted Gums scarred by the chewing of Yellow-bellied Gliders, of refuges for Long-footed Potoroos, and a large proportion of this ancient continent's biodiversity is at stake.

Need photo for background.

All of a sudden they were amongst them, trees crashing all around. Tree sprites crouched frozen with fear, long fingered hands and arms clasped protectively over their heads. Others were contorted, limbless, wrecked, their souls, their trees, smashed in upon them. Falling trees slammed into the earth and one-another, pounding out a catastrophic tattoo of shattering wood.

Two figures turned slowly amongst raging catastrophe. Their arms raised, stretched out to their sides. Their palms open, hands laid back, relaxed or devoid of strength. As they turned, tears splashed down their faces, then melted away into black earth.

The last tree of the last forest surcame and met the earth amongst a hurricane of leaves.

Their silent plead, their spinning, turning, churning helplessness.

He turned savage eyes skyward, back arched, mouth contorted in a silent scream. He wanted blood, every apathetic human under his thumb to grind.

She watched the leaves settling, kicking back reality, refusing to believe everything was lost. This can't be true, her mind buzzing and spinning, transfixed by the butterfly like motion of leaves flitting to the ground. Surely humanity would not have allowed it to come to this?

His energy burst from him, spent, he collapsed in on himself, hiding his crushed vulnerable soul in a tangle of arms, bowed head, flowing tears.

Her denial was almost complete, then recognition like a crushing wave was upon her. It was over, the end came for her now, swift.

She was stunned, then turning on her heel moved silently to his side, offered a gentle hand and whispered his true name. Feebly he responded to her, like a child wakened from dreams of cold black places.

On shaking legs he rose, giver of life, spirit of the forest, pagan God, broken child. He took the hand of mother earth and together they walked beyond mortal sight and away from this world.

And now the gentle lovers of the forest are gone,  
And with them the heart and soul of this earth.

And shall we not learn until the last man lifts his arse and wipes it with the toilet paper made from the last tree?

And shall you and I be amongst those that let it happen?



Ran

### A Win Win Solution for the Timbarra Gold Mine Problem.

As a realist I acknowledge the ebb and flow of societies values and attitudes over the span of years. The continued growth of the global economy and decay of natural resources can only result in one thing, eventual collapse. The pressure that such an event will place on any known unexploited gold reserves will be tremendous, as gold traditionally holds its value better than any other commodity. This may not happen for many years yet, but as we are endeavouring to protect cultural and natural values for as long as is foreseeable, we must consider the long term. The point I am trying to make here is that unless we can secure the Timbarra Plateau and surrounds for the long term, it is likely that at some point in the not too distant future we shall have to oppose another mine proposal backed by a potentially more pro mining government. If we are to win now for the long term the solution must be win win.

My proposal is simple. That the gold be left in the ground and that the holders of the mining lease be granted the corresponding value of this resource under the condition that it never be mined and profits from the venture distributed only on paper. This proposal is so simple that at first it sounds outrageous, but it can work. Economies are supposedly backed by gold reserves, so if the gold in the ground at Timbarra were considered part of the reserve, the economy should in theory have no problem with printing the cash to the value of the resource. If the reserve bank were to allocate the proven value of the resource under specific legislation to deal with this issue, I can see no reason why all parties can't walk away smiling. The mining company would be happy to have saved extraction costs, (a percentage of which I believe should be directed to development of a green employment program in the Timbarra region) and would be free to go off and dig less bothersome gold holes someplace more acceptable, conservation values will have been preserved as well as cultural values. The key to this process is ensuring the integrity of the proven value. Modern testing methods (as currently being used by the mining Co) are capable of providing reasonably accurate figures. Legislation would have to outline a specific evaluation process that would be adhered to for the purpose of establishing the extent of the resource. Of course the major advantage of this solution is that it will protect Timbarra indefinitely, because the gold in the ground will be fully recognised as part of Australia's Reserve Bank. At 0.7 grams per tonne of alluvium I don't think the Reserve Bank will have any problems with the security of their gold at Timbarra.

As an addition to this explanation I would like to impress upon people the importance of not making other people wrong for being who they are or doing what they do. Truly harmonious solutions are found when every one is happy.

I also think that it is important to press ahead and lobby with these ideas regardless of whether it is legally impractical or impossible for some bureaucratic reason. It is important that politicians see that we have focussed on a win win solution and let them know that only a lack of political will stands between them and saving a magnificent wilderness area.

Regards,  
Stuart McConville

Society demands I sit back and do nothing, while you wage war on everything I love.

When I defy your demands and fight to save some precious speck on a forests map, I'm arrested, charged and condemned by your pious greed. Some wigged, gavel wielding fuck-wit tries to force me to bend to the will of Multi-National rapists.

Still we cling to non-violent action, against machines that leave forest flora and fauna dead,  
crushed dead,

cut dead,

flung from trees,

dozed into the earth,

smashed upon by splintered homes,

choked in silted streams,

abandoned to forage amongst another of earth's new grave-yards.

Fuck you, I hold you in contempt of earth's beauty. I wish nothing less than to smash your machines, they slash my soul and mother earth's with blind and rabid greed.

Yet I will not, I'll suffer at heart while trees die and do my best to convince man to lay aside his chain saw and gently love what's left.

photo in background.

---

"take" to me  
like marsh frogs do

"work" with me  
like lured frogs do  
picky of bug.



Ode to the Fallen

Ode to the Fallen  
The small and the great

Ode to the Fallen

Ode to the Fallen

Ode to the child who

The child who was strong

The young who was strong

And the old who was

Ode to the young warriors

Who had so much to give

Ode to our mother's memory

It is through us that we live

Ode to the lives

That make no sense

Ode to the death

That makes our lives so immense

Ode to the friends and parents

Who were left behind

Now their spirits desire

Live high in our mind.

# Gnarly Old Tree Porridge

(lowercase)

Ingredients: Grains: Rolled Oats, Rolled Rye, Rolled Fescue, Millet,  
Roasted Buckwheat, Cooked Rice  
Non Grain: Black currants, Sliced dried Apricots, dried apple,  
dried pear, dried pineapple, chopped banana, shredded  
coconut, sunflower seeds, crushed hazelnuts.  
: sprinkle of salt  
: Coffee  
: Bread for Toast  
: Savory spread for Toast.  
: kindling.

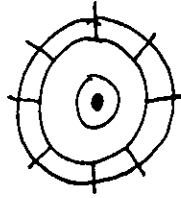
Method: First gather kindling and starch. I find that when  
in an area of communal chaos next to ones bedroll is  
the most secure area. Next count the number of people that attend  
dinner and ~~put~~ presoak a hand full of grain (except the rice)  
per person. Stash pot next to bedroll if necessary.

Wake at sparrows fart (5:30 - 6am). Get starches and light fire.  
Make coffee. The smell should wake at least one. Offer trade  
of coffee for gathering firewood. Make toast. Eat toast. Put on  
porridge pot with presoaked grains. Add a third of <sup>near grains</sup> a handful <sup>of non grains</sup> per  
person. Your cohorts will quickly let you know if you are  
not giving them what they want (eg "Yuck bananas"). The  
aim is to feed the maximum a healthy and warm meal  
prior to a morning of fun and adventure, not satisfying  
your own tastes (that is what the toast is for).

## Porridge Cont

Continuously stir porridge, make coffee, butter coffee for firewood, Boil water to top up porridge pot. It will be ready when it really sticks to the stirring spoon. If it has reached homogenised glue you have cooked it too long. garnish with pepitas, shredded coconut, ground cinnamon.

P.S. When everyone has had breakfast, wash up porridge pot. It just seems to be one of those chores.



Hi there megaspunks! Just came  
across these amongst the chaos of my  
filing system. Might be good to chuck  
in the GRAPHICS BOX.

Don't know if you need any gap fillers for LEAF (or if too  
late). Put these in just in case.

- Aust. supports at least 25000 species of plants
- In Aust.'s arid deserts there are more species of reptiles than exist  
in one environment anywhere else on earth.
- $\frac{1}{2}$  of the rainforests in the world have already been destroyed.  
The remaining  $\frac{1}{2}$  is being cut down at the rate of 250 million  
acres a year.
- Another species becomes extinct every  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour (worldwide)

- Forests are like families,  
spanning generations,  
fulfilling their lives & being replaced in time.  
The big difference is  
that forests are being felled  
whilst in their prime  
to build homes and farms and cities.

Djitedjitnah  
Love TEEN //

# NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS, Inc.



## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1996 : : NO. 23

Tragedy lurks in 'tasty treat'

### The Hong Kong gecko

We all know how plastic bags, condoms and balloons are mistaken for jelly fish by many marine creatures. Here's an amazing account of a juvenile Laughing kookaburra and its encounter with an object mistaken for a tasty treat.

Friday, November 29, I received a call from the Terrace Caravan Park at Brunswick Heads. A lady had found a small kookaburra floundering in the Brunswick River, rescued it, blow-dried it, and then phoned us.

The young bird was in very poor condition and showed absolutely no interest in any food offered to it. I eventually managed to get the bird to keep down three pellets of 'roo mince, insectivore and crushed cicada shells.

Next morning I checked on Kooka, fully expecting the bird to have passed away overnight. To my surprise the bird was perching and had regurgitated not only the previous night's meal but what at first sight appeared to be a large Leaf-tailed gecko. The size of the 'lizard' this little bird had swallowed was quite remarkable, but there was something just not right about this lizard and with closer inspection I found out why. On the belly of the reptile were the words MADE IN HONG KONG.

The actual length of the rubber toy is 150mm (6"). How Kooka had managed to swallow the rubber toy then regurgitate it is incredible. This raises the question did a parent feed it to him or did young Kooka take it upon itself to grab an easy meal whilst waiting for Mum and Dad?

Throughout Saturday Kooka ate enthusiastically any food offered and within

four days was returned to his parents, hopefully more educated with regard to lizard ID.

Force feeding birds is usually a stressful task both for the bird and the carer. In this case I have no doubt it saved Kooka from starving to death – not because of the food provided, but owing to the stress induced regurgitation of the blockage.

– Bob Oehlman



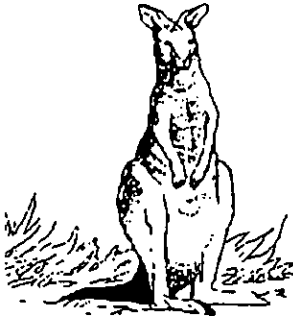
#### INSIDE

CO-ORDINATORS ... ..	2
COMING EVENTS... ..	3
FROM THE PRESIDENT... ..	7
DR ROD BLAKE ... ..	10
LYSSAVIRUS UPDATE ... ..	11
PIN THIS UP ... ..	13

Licensed by NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service to rescue, relocate & rehabilitate native fauna

Licence No. GL 1301 • Fundraising Authority CFN 14907

P O Box 6439, South Lismore, NSW 2480



# Co-ordinator reports



*Please give your co-ordinator full information on animals and birds in your monthly reports. For example, a butcherbird should be described as a Grey butcherbird or a Pied butcherbird - they are two quite distinct species, both of which occur in our area.*

## Area 1 - Kyogle

In October, Mishka collected an injured Koala which went to Ruth Barrett (Friends of the Koala) for care. Some students brought in from the Border Ranges a Melomys which was too small to live. They were trapping the mothers for research. A Tawny frogmouth baby went to Sue Young - she has a nice aviary and juicy mice. A tick removed from a Peaceful dove was ok, a baby bird was brought in too small to identify and died the same day. Three little Magpies; two in care and I kept the straggler, very small and hurt, but survived. Lots of snake calls. After a nice talk we mostly solved the problems.

November, another little Magpie came in via Nancy. It had fallen from the nest and hurt its nose, must have been on the ground long enough to get flyblown in its nose. We took hours to remove the maggots with saltwater and lots of patience. She is slowly recovering and finally opens her mouth to ask for food.

A Tawny was euthanased (too many injuries); 2 baby Rosellas just feathered, doing well since 3 more came in. All together, same age, seem happy and soon to be released. Another baby Tawny frogmouth came in for Sue to pair up with the first. A Figbird, badly injured, had to be put down, as did a Sugar glider which came

from Urbanville.

It was a quiet spring and we enjoyed a day at my place for the new carers. It was a perfect day. We couldn't come to the Eltham Xmas party because we all had little animals to feed.

I thank all my carers for their help this year and wish every one a peaceful Christmas. Keep smiling!

- Mariette Mallam

## Area 2 - Lismore

Lismore roster had 415 calls for October and November.

A big thank you to Morris and Helen for their tireless work of collecting animals each afternoon from the vet. It is worth a lot to busy carers to have such willing and capable drivers.

Birds accounted for 235 calls of which 28 were released, 51 died, 28 euthanased, 37 in care and 85 advice only. 4 Macropod calls resulted in 2 dead, 1 released, 1 in care. 9 Bandicoots (3 dead, 1 in care, 1 euthanased, 2 released, 2 advice) and 9 Echidnas (1 dead, 1 euthanased, 5 advice and 2 released). One Flying-fox dead and one advice. Reptiles and amphibians were a little quieter with 52 snakes, 9 lizards, 3 turtles and a frog. There were 11 Koala calls redirected to Friends of the Koala. A nest of young Antichinus is in care. We had a good feral selection including mice, rats,

puppies, kittens, ferrets, foxes with cubs, rabbits, roosters, sparrows and cockatiels (one named Bruce). We could almost start a McDonald's Farm as a fundraiser!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind wishes while I was laid up and would also like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

- Pauline Burnap

## Area 3 - Byron Shire

It's been a very busy couple of months in Byron. As well as heaps of birds, animals and reptiles, some of the humans have been sick and injured - myself included. Sorry there's no formal report but circumstances beyond my control have intervened, so I hope to have better luck next time.

A very big THANK YOU to Karen Hill, wildlife carer and co-proprietor of Lighthouse Print in Byron Bay. Karen has come to my rescue on numerous occasions and reproduced wads of material for our training days and similar events. Many, many thanks.

Keep up the good work everyone; thanks to each and every carer in the Byron Shire and beyond for the amazing support you have all given me. May your holidays be healthy, happy and safe.

- Raylee Rayward

[Con't page 4...]





# TRAINING DAYS



Part of our commitment as wildlife carers is to  
seek training whenever possible.  
We look forward to seeing you there.

## HELEN GEORGE TRAINING COURSES

MARCH 1ST & 2ND, 1997

An opportunity to hear one of Australia's most experienced  
wildlife carers. Helen is a wonderful speaker and has  
a wealth of knowledge to share with us all.

At the Lismore Workers Club from 9:30am until 4:00pm

Coffee and lunch available at the Club

Cost: \$15 for each day

### SATURDAY, MARCH 1

### ADVANCED MACROPOD DAY

A chance for experienced joey carers to discuss any problems  
and to ask any questions on caring management.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 2

### BIRDS, POSSUMS & BANDICOOTS

Members wishing to become active carers **MUST** attend this course. Experienced carers  
will benefit with information on the latest caring techniques and  
having any questions discussed and answered.

**Bookings are essential** to assist with catering and printed notes.  
Please phone Margaret, 888 125, before February 21st, 1997 to register

T-shirts, Helen George's notes on Echidna, Sonya Stanvick's possum book, Wombaroo foods,  
mealworms, teats, bottles, heat pad dimmers, bird and mammal identification books – On Sale!

All carers are reminded you must attend an appropriate  
training day for the species you wish to care for at  
least every two years. Billets are available with carers  
in the area. If you have to travel from out of the area  
and would like to stay with a local family, please ring  
Jackie Maisiey on 282 066 to arrange accommodation.



#### **Area 4 – Ballina**

Congratulations to Carole and George Morris who were recognised with an award from Scope for quietly and competently carrying out bird caring activities. Carole did most of the bird caring for this area and has been a great support to me. Lucy and Bev have also had their share of birds. Raptors have gone to Wendy and Dave.

Other members have been very willing to help and support me, and I thank all of you. Records for October and November in our area show the following:

Tawny frogmouths, 8. Eastern rosellas, 11. Red-crowned pigeon, 1. Magpies 12. Crested pigeons 5. White headed (baldy) pigeons 1. Wild duckling 1. Spur-winged plover 2. Galah 1. Azure kingfisher 2. Sacred kingfisher 1. Little shearwater 1. Short-tailed shearwater 1. Brown honeyeater 1. Scaly-breasted lorikeet 1. Rainbow lorikeet 1. Red tailed finch 1. Crow 1. Currawongs 6. Butcher birds, 1. White-backed swallow, 1. Welcome swallow, 7. Figbirds 3. Sooty tern 1. Noisy miner, 6. White-faced heron (blue crane), 1. Cattle egret 1. Kookaburra, 4. Blue-tongue lizard, 3. Bearded dragon 1. Swamp wallaby 1. Ringtail possum, 3. Snakes 7. Advice only calls received for native rats, cats on new subdivision, a fox, magpie attacks, human attacks on magpie (being teased by teenagers), baby cockatoo rearing, birds in eaves, brushtail possums.

Happy caring and happy holidays.

– Fran Newton

#### **Area 5 – Evans Head**

In October there were 12 calls; 9 for birds, 1 advice only, a magpie attack, and six died including a pigeon found with a safety

pin in his leg. A galah was released, a snake call referred to snake people, an Eastern water dragon was relocated and a call to Air Force Beach for a dolphin, sadly dead.

For November, 18 calls. Again 9 bird calls – 1 advice, 3 died, and 3 in care including last month's released galah who must have been feeling sick and returned to the vet, Rod Blake, by himself. After surgery for a lump in his throat he is on the mend. One bird was released; there was a pelican people thought was drowning and Elena found it looking for dinner. 2 Koala calls referred to Friends of Koala, 2 lizards had a car ride from Bowen in Q'ld. Only one was found, it had a habit of changing colour from brown to yellow. It was collected by NPWS to be returned home. Advice calls about phascogales who had taken residence in a letter box. The people now have two letter boxes, one for the phascogales, another for mail. An Eastern grey joey was euthanased; a brushtail possum with a bad eye; a tree frog relocated from Evans Head school; a tortoise also relocated.

Seasons greetings to all from Elena and myself.

– Joyce Skinner

#### **Area 6 – West of the Richmond Range**

Six calls in all for Oct/Nov included a Redneck wallaby which died, juvenile Currawong in care, Flying-fox trapped on wire fence, released and taken to Yamba for rehab. Advice on rearing reptile eggs, a juvenile Tawny frogmouth and a Buff-banded rail injured by a car, both in care. Wishing everyone the very healthiest and happiest festive season.

– Jenny Moody

#### **Area 7 – Casino**

In October we had 28 calls. Of the birds, 3 in care, one released, one euthanased, 10 died and one advice only. Two immature Willie wagtails came into care in their nest, which was found under a backhoe but not until it was relocated from Casino to Bonalbo. The gentleman brought babies and nest back to Casino, but unfortunately their adventure was too much for them. There were 3 reptile advice calls. A Redneck wallaby needed rescuing because of an injured leg, but he has other ideas and escaped into the bush. One Echidna call and a call to rescue some orphaned possums that turned out to be baby foxes. Another call to ask us if we would raise some fox pups!

42 November calls. Birds: 3 advice, 11 died, 2 euthanased, 5 in care, 5 released, 2 escaped before pickup, 1 hawk transferred to Dave. A Redneck wallaby died, an Eastern grey advice call, 2 Brown snake advice calls and a carpet snake who will be in care for a couple of weeks. 2 Blue-tongue lizards, both euthanased. A frog ID call, a Flying-fox euthanased, a possum who escaped before pickup.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Casino carers and their families, and Phill and Ross and the Vet nurses, a very merry and safe Christmas season.

– Lee Webb

#### **Area 8 – Coraki**

October had 17 calls of which 8 were advice only. A joey, 2 reptiles, 5 birds and a feral animal. The advice calls were mainly young birds and a couple of snakes. The Swamp wallaby joey is in care with Joyce Skinner. A Carpet snake was removed

[Con't page 6...]

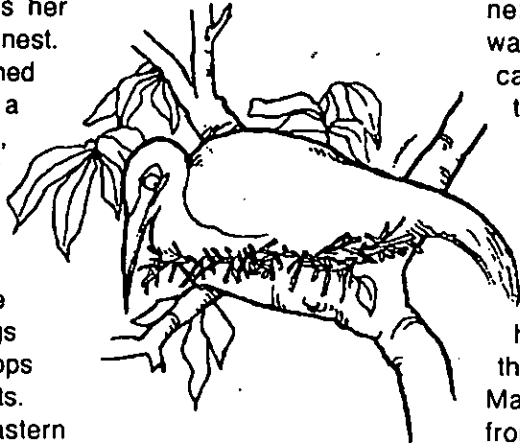
# The view from my kitchen window...

Within our busy, noisy house area household activity continues. People and cars come and go, the back-door slams, the dogs bark, the lawn mower starts.

A Pacific black duck is incubating 12 eggs next to the pond where she was one of nine hand-reared ducklings (in April, 1995). This is her third clutch in the same nest. Previous sittings hatched six ducklings each. After a day or two on our pond, mother duck takes her brood to the paddock dam 500 metres away. They often return for several days visit at the pond before the ducklings can fly. Her wild mate pops in for short, nervous visits.

A pair of Eastern rosellas are feeding young in an artificial nest-box hung on a palm tree next to the pond. They have fledged 7 young from three previous seasons. A pair of Figbirds are nest building in a overhanging brach a metre from our back door. All construction takes

place from dawn until we get up. This is their fourth nest and they fledge one or two young each nest. They seem to feel quite secure amongst all the household activity as long as eye contact is avoided – especially while she's sitting.



The White-faced herons have two eggs in their nest high in a tree only two metres from the back door. The male was hand-reared from a nestling in January 1996. After choosing the nest site, he partially constructed a

nest then brought his female to the site for her approval. He has collected all the nest material while she positioned and tidied the twigs.

Noisy miners are feeding nestlings close by in the shrubbery on the drive. Bar-shouldered doves are incubating eggs in a bush next to the pond. Eastern water dragons come and go, catching insects. A Pink-tongue lizard lives in a rubber boot in the garage. A female Mountain brushtail possum (Bobuck) which was hand-reared from 150 grams (in July, 1993) has her third joey and is having a good scratch in the roof above my head. Magpies feed young in the front garden, while an Echidna re-arranges our rockery each night.

All this activity and lots more I can see and enjoy with a stone's throw of my kitchen window.

– Lynn McLaren  
October, 1996

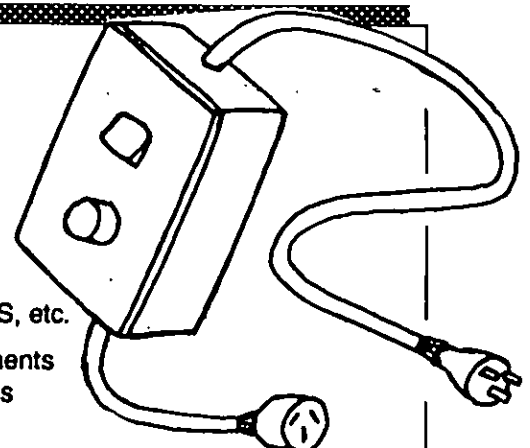
## PORTABLE LIGHT DIMMER

SAFE AND CONVENIENT CONTROL  
OF YOUR ANIMAL'S POUCH TEMPERATURE

*For control of:*

\*ELECTRIC SLIPPERS \* ELECTRIC BLANKETS  
\* INCANDESCENT LIGHTS \* HOME-BREW HEATERS, etc.

- Assembled by licensed electrician from standard components
- High quality "Clipsal" components • Flex length 1.5 metres
- 12 months' warranty
- Can be used as speed control for small series wound motors up to 100W (Check with me first)



**PHONE CAM BLACK – 88 0188 – MEMBER'S PRICE \$25**

N.B. This device is not a thermostat and should be used in conjunction with a thermometer and adjusted as required.

from house to garden. An Eastern water dragon with leg ripped off had to be euthanased (Jeff came to pick him up). A fox enthanased. 5 bird calls incl. a Kingfisher, cared for by Carole Morris and released; a figbird died overnight, two Eastern rosellas (1 died, 1 in care) and a Crested pigeon died overnight.

November, 13 calls. A Koala baby passed to the koala carers but sadly it died. 2 advice calls, one a marsh snake in a kitchen, the other for a Jabiru 'black-necked stork'. 10 bird calls included a very young Tawny still in care, 2 Magpies (1 died, 1 in care), a Willy wagtail died, 2 Eastern rosellas (1 died, 1 released), a Scaly-breasted lorikeet was released. A Boobook owl with broken wing was euthanased, a Crested pigeon in care, a Noisy miner died overnight and a kite which went to Dave Roach for care. Dave travelled all the way out here to pick it up. He said he desperately needs updated rehab cages; he and Jean have been caring for these majestic birds for over 20 years. Occasionally birds have to go out of this area for long-term care. A Wedge-tailed eagle had to go to Grafton for care as Dave's cages weren't big enough. He said travelling is very stressful for these birds and it is difficult to get them back without feather damage or injury. Any ideas for fundraising, or maybe someone to sponsor the raptors, please ring our fundraising officer Marg Dean with your ideas.

- Sandy Lawler

*[Editor's note: The National Parks & Wildlife Service is providing Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, Inc. with a large raptor facility. It is planned to locate this at Dave Roach's property].*

## Helium balloons... ...an issue?

The effect of a mass release of helium-filled balloons is beginning to attract media attention; many questions are raised, the major one being is the release of thousands of balloons at celebratory functions subject to environmental anti-pollution laws?

Atmospheric pollutants, by definition, include solid, liquid or gaseous matter that have a negative effect on the environment directly or indirectly. Pollution legislation comes under seven different acts, two of which are relevant to balloons.

The Clean Air Act (1970) includes control of air pollutants including emission into the air of any impurities including... solid particles, gases, fumes...

The Clean Water Act (1970) focuses on sediment and waste water discharge from processing plants.

The immediate threat to marine life as a result of balloon pollution poses more complex problems. There is no legislation directly addressing land-based sources of marine debris. Coastal waters (to 3 nautical miles) fall within state jurisdiction; balloons know no boundaries, however.



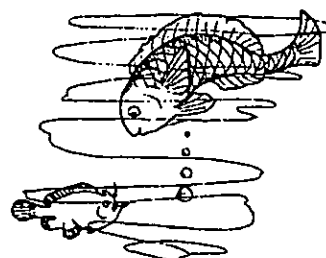
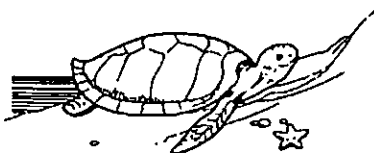
Permits are re-quired from local councils prior to a mass release of balloons, but no clear guidelines are available; I would suggest that before this tradition of celebratory pollution takes hold in Australia, governments need to be lobbied to target this practice and prevent it happening.

Balloons are just one of the many items ingested by marine animals to their detriment and often their death. They are mistaken for a potential food item such as jelly fish, squid, fish, etc.

To communicate your concerns regarding this issue and to bring about change to current legislation, write to:

The Honourable Robert Hill, Minister for the Environment,  
The Senate, Parliament House, Canberra 2600 -  
fax (06) 277 3387, email <http://senate.aph.gov.au>

- Julie Reid,  
Environmental Officer



## President's Report

*Hello members & supporters,*

We're at that time of the year again when carers earn a reputation of being unreliable. If you are like me, appointments are made and times decided upon only to find you are called out to a rescue, your baby 'whatever' picks the final feed before you leave to not eat properly, poos itself, or some other disaster happens. But for all of this who would give it up? – not me!

For any active carers that aren't receiving creatures, have you rung your coordinator to let her know that you are available and what facilities you have? With holidays just about here, everyone is needed so if you are NOT going away and are available to care or transport animals let us know.

Congratulations to the Byron Shire group who had a very successful day at Mullum Markets. A raffle was



held, thanks to a lot of effort put in by Suze Gillson. How Suze found the time to organise such a great raffle is a mystery but she did, and lots of dollars were raised. A great job, Suze. Thank you.

It was indeed an honour to accept the generous cheque on behalf of our Seabird Group at the Scope Awards in Ballina, and to have the opportunity to tell them a little about our dynamic outfit. Plenty of questions asked over supper made me feel my remarks struck a receptive audience. The Quiet Achievers award to Carole and George Morris was well deserved recognition of a remarkable effort by our carer

Carole and her capable husband.

Another piece of good news is that Michael, our treasurer, has walked his legs off trying to find an auditor for Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers. Quotes ranged from \$600 to \$1000 until Rutherfords of Lismore offered to audit our books at no charge. Fantastic!

I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to all our vets who are so busy at this time of year yet still manage to care for our wildlife.

I apologise for my absence at our Christmas get-together at Eltham. I had illness in the family and had to go to Sydney. From all reports, the day was enjoyed by all. Everyone has agreed that the Eltham Pub is a great venue and we hope to meet there again.

I wish you all the best for 1997 and hope that your Christmas will be a happy and peaceful one.

– Jackie Maisey,  
President



## Training days...

The Helen George weekend workshop, last weekend of October at Murwillumbah (in conjunction with Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers) was great. Saturday was devoted to marsupials and nine Northern Rivers members attended. We welcomed as new carers Alicia Carter, Roy Freilich and Lahluna. Sunday covered the care of birds, with four of our members present.

Ballina area's bird care training afternoon was well attended. We welcomed as new carers Sue Fox, Kelly Behrens, Flo Danswan, Bev



Cassidy and Peter and Margaret Kohlmetz. Bob Oehlman did a wonderful job following Jenny Verroen's notes and adding bits from his own vast experience. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other, meet other carers and visit with coordinator Fran Newton. Many thanks to Carole Morris for opening her home to us for the afternoon.

Four of us travelled to Woody Head for Clarence Valley WIRES workshop with Helen George (yes, she's the best!) on Sunday November 17. In addition to gaining more knowledge on care for



our joeys, we took advantage of the opportunity to discuss problems with WIRES carers and to meet three carers from Southport in Queensland.

All carers are reminded that, to retain a current authority, a training day must be attended at least every two years. Our next training will be in March, 1997 with Helen George. Saturday, March 1st will be an advanced macropod carers day, and Sunday 2nd covers birds, possums and bandicoots.

– Margaret Weaver  
Education Officer

# Ibis wears out welcome...

*[Reprinted from an article by Ken Blanch in the Sunday Mail, 29.9.96]*

If ever there was a bird that could look down its nose at you, it's the ibis.

But now humans are turning the tables on these uninvited dinner guests as they swarm in ever-increasing numbers to the easy pickings of the Gold and Tweed Coasts and other densely populated watering resorts.

Surveys indicate there are now 3000 to 5000 of them on the Gold Coast strip alone – and this is projected to escalate to more than 10,000 in the next four years if they are allowed to breed unchecked.

An Ibis Management Committee has been formed to try to convince the big, quarrelsome, often disease-ridden birds they ought to leave the soft life of Australia's holiday resort and go back to the bush.

The ibis explosion

has occurred along the tourist strip because their own natural environment has been degraded by development and the resulting shrinkage of wetlands.

The increasing development has forced the birds to seek out unnatural food sources at rubbish tips, picnic grounds, private homes, schools and parks, according to Graeme McGregor of Qld NPWS.

And they have become increasingly objectionable as they squabble over food, pecking, fighting, calling and lunging at competitors – including occasionally, humans. Mr McGregor is heading the Ibis Management organisation.

It plans to monitor ibis breeding to maintain bird numbers at a level that can be sustained in what is left of their natural environment.

Nesting sites have been identified as major problem areas. Mr McGregor likens the ibis explosion to invasions of cane toads, rab-

bits and mice. 'Man's intervention is creating an imbalance in nature that is leading to an ibis population explosion', he said. His committee is approaching the problem as one created by man, not by the ibis.

Its plan will involve encouraging the birds back to natural habitats by rejuvenating their wetlands while restricting supplies of unnatural foods. The Gold Coast Council is considering developing existing sewerage treatment plants into wetlands and has earmarked several existing wetland areas for long-term conservation.

Ibis-proof rubbish bins will be installed at picnic grounds, refuse tips and commercial waste bins will be modified, and the birds will be dispersed from unnatural nesting and roosting sites.

Locals and tourists will be discouraged from feeding them.

## ... Item - DPI Q'land stuffs up...

DPI admit mixing up labels of specimen flying-fox including that which fell/flew onto two people at Currumbin two weeks ago. The Currumbin animal did **NOT** have Lyssavirus. It seems the bat was alone, injured and exhausted; it was startled by people walking below and fell. The damage this dreadful mistake has made to wildlife care will never be reversed.

## ... Bat Flap ...

Putting positive spins on damaging news is a hard task for government media advisers. But not even the very best of spin doctors could have wriggled their way out of the predicament confronting an embarrassed Dept. of Primary Industries last week.

The DPI had to admit it was wrong to claim a flying-fox which bit/scratched two people at Currumbin carried the deadly Lyssavirus. The tactic employed by Department media experts was to issue a cheery news release headed 'Currumbin bat cleared of Lyssavirus'. It quoted the Minister as 'greatly relieved' that the two victims scratched were not at risk. However, the DPI was no longer confident enough to refer to the victims as either men or women, just people. It is unclear whether the animal will sue for defamation.

*(Sunday Mail 1.12.96)*

## Put the 'fun' in fundraising...

Many, many thanks to all who responded to my last-minute call for bucket shakers at Lismore Carboot Market in October. The response was remarkable.

The bucket shakers were very enthusiastic and we were confident the haul would be considerable. At the first count the total was very low and I was feeling very despondent – so much effort for apparently so little return. Oh well, people had probably spent all their money at the Lismore Show, but we would keep on collecting for a while longer. At the next count the tally had greatly improved and at last count, a grand total of \$800 – those gold coins certainly add up! The Lismore group also did well from the sale of goods.

Thank you very much to all those who contributed to the success of the day. Congratulations bucket shakers; your enthusiasm and approach to the public was terrific. I am still hearing sto-

ries. There are too many names to list, but I would like to mention our junior members who once again collected a large amount.

The Byron group was the charity at Mullum Market in November and they raised over \$300 from donations and a four-prize raffle. Well done. Congratulations to all who participated, particularly in view of the extreme heat.

Due to Peter Connelley's illness the fundraising day at Lismore Square was cancelled. Hope you get well soon, Pete.

Information Day at Alstonville Show was very slow but our presence was noted, particularly when Nelson and his human appeared. Thanks, Nelson. Thanks also to National Parks for the loan of posters and display board.

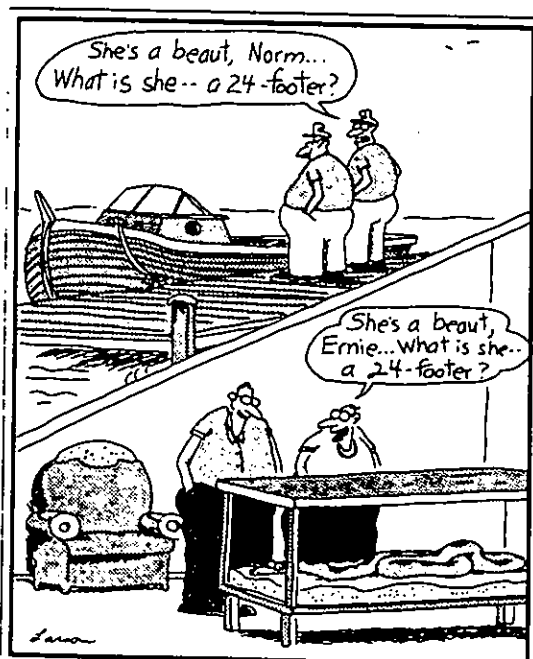
The Ballina Scope Group annually awards local achievers – this year the Seabird Rescue Group received a \$200 donation and

Carole and George Morris were awarded the 'Quiet Achiever' trophy. Warmest congratulations.

HELP!! I am looking for handy people who can assist in making donation boxes or supplying wood, locks, etc. for making same. We urgently need these boxes – several places have already agreed to take them and as always we can use the money! Yes, I know the holiday season is coming up and everybody is busy, but please phone me on 878 033 to say you can help. The animals don't get holidays, they just seem to sustain more injuries during this period. My sincere thanks to Bob Davis of Tuckombil for all his help with ideas and a sample.

Thank you all for your assistance and support during the past year. I wish you and your family a safe and rewarding festive and holiday period – may your God go with you.

– Marg Dean,  
Fundraiser



Where the respective worlds of boating and herpetology converge.



### BILLETS



From time to time, carers from geographically distant areas within our group and members of other wildlife care groups join us for training days. To save early morning and late night travel over long distances as well as offering an enjoyable means of getting to know each other, we are listing local carers willing and able to offer accommodation. Please ring Jackie Maisey on 282 066 and add your name. Thanks!



The following article is reprinted from the Evans Head local paper with the kind permission of Dr Rod Blake, BVS (Hons), MAgSc. Please be aware that this article relates a much-shortened version of the original, due to limited space available for the 'Pet talk with Dr Rod' column.

## Wildlife – our responsibilities...

There are many people who are apparently unaware of the rules and regulations that are in place for the protection of wildlife. To some people a chance finding of an injured wild bird or animal presents them with the opportunity to have their very own wildlife 'pet'.

Unfortunately there are many people who are very ignorant about the needs, particularly dietary, of wildlife. This lack of knowledge more often than not, results in the wildlife dying a slow and malingering death.

Lorikeets, for instance, are nectar feeders and consequently starve to death on parrot seed diets because they don't have a gizzard necessary to grind up the seeds. Baby joey kangaroos and wallabies are sensitive to lactose in ordinary cows milk. Consequently cows milk will result in the development of cataracts and secondary glaucoma that

results in blindness.

Very recently I had the misfortune to be involved in a case where two young people found a joey kangaroo hooked up in a fence. Fortunately they took the time to rescue it, but that's where the joey's good fortune ended.

In their efforts to 'keep' this wildlife pet they neglected to gain the joey veterinary attention to its legs for several days after the rescue, in which time the wounds became very infected and fly-blown.

After a string of lies to a wildlife carer, National Parks employees and myself, the police were called to assist. National Parks employees confiscate the joey. It was subsequently euthanased because of the severity of the wounds.

The two offenders should consider themselves very lucky if they escape prosecution by the Courts.

In order to eliminate these problems, the government has introduced various laws and licencing systems to prevent the general public from possessing wildlife – injured or not. If you happen to discover injured wildlife, it must be handed over to either a veterinary surgeon or a registered wildlife carer straight away.

If you turn your back on an injured animal because it will be an inconvenience for you to locate someone to hand it over to, then we could say it has been a sad day for all concerned.

I'm willing to accept injured wildlife either at my Evans Head Veterinary Clinic, 71 Woodburn St, Evans Head, (825 252 all hours), or at my residence.

There is indeed a great need for more carers. If you are interested please contact Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, Inc.

– Dr Rod Blake

### A Husband's Lament

My wife is a wildlife carer  
Do you honestly know what that means?  
There's simply no time for the cooking  
I'm living on bacon and beans

My wife is a wildlife carer  
Always at workshops mixing  
With animals of great fame  
While I sit home every evening  
Without a clean shirt to my name.

It's not that she isn't domestic  
She can sew and even make bread  
But when she's thinking of wildlife  
There is no other thought in her head!

There's mealworms again in the cornflakes  
There's Wombaroo stuck on the bread

And it isn't entirely unusual  
To find possums tucked up in our bed.

The telephone never stops ringing  
It's rescue for this or for that  
While I sit at home in the evening  
Having serious talks with the cat.

I just cannot cope with the housework  
My books are unread on the shelf  
I think in sheer desperation  
I'll take up caring myself!





# ...Lyssavirus \* an update...

The following material was received from Linda Collins via Robyn Gough a couple of weeks ago. Robyn tells me that events are moving so quickly, some of this material is already out of date. Please contact Robyn should you urgently require the latest on Lyssavirus.

## A REALISTIC APPROACH TO LYSSAVIRUS IN AUSTRALIAN BATS

*compiled by Linda Collins  
The Australasian Bat Society  
(Wildlife Rehabilitation Representative)*

The death of a Rockhampton wildlife carer has ended our age of innocence – we can no longer expect our interaction with all native fauna to be benign.

It has been widely reported in the press that she caught the virus from an infected flying-fox. This has been proved untrue. The carer infected had been bitten and scratched within the incubation period of this virus by a number of different native animals, including an insectivorous bat and possum, all who could potentially carry the virus. Lyssaviruses are found in a wide range of mammals overseas. In Australia, only the flying-fox has been tested for this virus.

Until the source of the virus has been determined it is imperative that ALL wildlife carers improve their hygiene and rescue techniques when handling ALL native species.

Press releases and media hype over the past six months concerning Equine Morbillivirus (EMV), Lyssavirus and the flying-fox have added to the confusion surrounding this latest situation.

There are two different and totally unrelated viruses within the flying-fox population.

**1. Bat paramyxovirus** – This virus was isolated in the flying-fox when the Qld Dept of Primary Industries (DPI) was testing recently for EMV. DPI has confirmed that although these two viruses are similar, there is still no evidence linking flying-foxes with EMV and the bat paramyxovirus does not pose a threat to humans.

**2. Lyssavirus** – Lyssavirus is a rabies-related virus, it is **not** rabies. However, while infection to humans is rare, this virus produces the same fatal results as rabies. This newly identified *Lyssavirus* is currently only known to infect flying-foxes and insectivorous bats. Until the full extent of this virus is known we must take adequate precautions to avoid infection, no matter how remote they appear.

It is just as important not to lose our perspective in this current situation and a calm, constructive and united approach is required. We must remember that for the past fifteen years thousands of wildlife carers in both Queensland and NSW have rehabilitated and raised thousands of native animals. Amongst this large human population, in direct, prolonged and intimate contact, this has been the first death attributable to a native species.

Lyssavirus is a virus of the nervous system and cannot at this time be identified from blood testing. For this reason if the public, fellow workers or family members are concerned as to their level of exposure to the virus, the animal in question will have to be euthanased to determine if it is carrying the virus.

The following procedures have been endorsed by the Health Department

and Wildlife Care Groups in Qld and NSW and have been implemented not only to safeguard you, your family and the animals in your care but to ensure a secure future for wildlife rehabilitation. It is important that all Wildlife Care Organisations embrace a professional and responsible attitude or government regulations will be imposed. All procedures will be subject to change as more information becomes available.

## ORPHAN FLYING-FOX

- Improve hygiene. Hands to be washed with soap and water each time an animal is handled. The single most effective method of reducing transmission is thorough scrubbing with soap and water.
- Family members should be instructed only to observe any animals in care, but NOT to handle.
- No animal should be displayed in public nor come in contact with the public.
- Taking an animal into a work environment should be avoided.
- Cotton gloves and long sleeve shirts can be worn to reduce bites and scratches.
- Baby flying-foxes are now only to go to carers that have had pre or post vaccination.

## ADULT FLYING-FOX

- All adult rescues must be performed by experienced adult handlers only.
- All flying-fox rescuers must have pre or post vaccination.
- All branches should supply phone roster co-ordinators with the names of these rescuers.
- All flying-fox bodies not being immediately tested for Lyssavirus should be frozen with all details attached.

Con't over page

**Flying-fox and Micro  
(Insectivorous) Bats Only:  
Until Further Notice**

Any carer bitten or scratched by an adult flying-fox or insectivorous bat.

- Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and contact your co-ordinator immediately. All co-ordinators have contact numbers and procedures for immediate lyssavirus testing.

- The animal is to be euthanased and the appropriate authorities notified.

- These animals will be transported by the appropriate authorities for lyssavirus testing.

- Post Exposure Vaccine is available (see vaccination).

**Any flying-fox displaying  
lyssavirus symptoms:**

Symptoms to be determined by experienced adult handler

- Full or partial paralysis
- ABNORMAL aggressive behaviour
- Salivating
- Comatose/diaphragm tremor
- Unable to drink

It must be remembered that animals with back trauma, ticks or poisoning will also display similar symptoms. Any flying-fox who cannot use its legs to escape due to paralysis will extend its wings and strike with its thumbs. This can be viewed as aggressive behaviour.

**EDUCATION ANIMALS**

- No education animals are to be displayed until appropriate vaccination has been administered. These animals will also be subject to euthanasia if complaints are received from the public.
- No wild animals are to be housed with education animals to avoid possible transmission.

**VACCINATION**

The co-ordinator should have record of vaccinated carers.

**Pre-exposure** vaccination is recommended for any carer who has **not** been previously bitten or scratched by an insectivorous bat or flying-fox but who is working with these animals. If you require pre-exposure vaccination contact your GP. Pre-exposure vaccination consists of three intramuscular doses of rabies vaccine on days 0, 7 and 28.

**Post-exposure** vaccination is available through your local GP. The cost of post exposure vaccination will at this time be covered by the Health Department. A questionnaire must be completed by you and your doctor as to the time you were bitten or scratched, the location of the wound, depth of the wound etc. This will determine which of two available post exposure treatments you require. Post Exposure Vaccination consists of five or six intramuscular injections depending on the procedure, given on days 0, 3, 7, 14 and 28.

**ALL NOMINATED FLYING-FOX  
& INSECTIVOROUS BAT RES-  
CUERS MUST BE VACCINATED**

**REMEMBER...** if you are concerned about the negative image currently being generated about bats, then follow the above procedures. You are in the highest risk group in Australia for contracting Lyssavirus. More illnesses or deaths will keep this issue alive in our irresponsible media.

**!! STOP PRESS !!**

Lyssavirus has now been found in a Yellow-bellied sheath tailed micro bat near Toowoomba. These are high flying microbats which rarely come into care. However, the carer from Rockhampton who died recently had been badly bitten by one of these bats and the bite became infected; she sought medical treatment for it.

If you have been bitten or scratched (to the extent that you bled) in the last 5 years by a flying-fox or microbat, please arrange to receive the **Post-exposure** vaccine from your local GP. Please do so soon, as the vaccine is **presently free to Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers** but this situation may not last, so hurry! This vaccine will give you full protection for at least two years, after which we can have a blood test to check if it's still working and if not, have just a booster dose.

Eve and I are thinking of taking up a less challenging hobby (like sky-diving) so if anybody out there wants to be Bat Co-ordinator, please get in touch!!

On a happier note, Ellen and babies released well, as did microbat Andy. Six sub-adult FFs are recovering wonderfully well from injuries and have passed the danger time now.

Better news next time I hope. Until then, happy Christmas to you all.

— Robyn



The **UP** side of  
Lyssavirus!  
Nobody's  
talking about  
capturing &  
exporting FFs  
for food  
any more!



**COMMITTEE  
AND  
OFFICERS**



**PIN THIS UP !**

**CO-ORDINATORS  
AND  
SPECIALISTS**

**CENTRAL INFO NUMBER  
281 666**

PRESIDENT JACKIE MAISEY 282 066  
VICE PRES. DEBBIE FORD 243 244  
SEC. MARGARET WEAVER 888 125  
TREAS. MICHAEL COCHRAN 882 223  
CO-ORD. LIAISON RAYLEE 858 350  
NPWS L'SN JOHN GOUGH 281 355  
**PR** - CHERYL COCHRAN 882 223

**ORDINARY MEMBERS:**

ROBYN GOUGH 281 355  
MARIE BULL 295 242  
MERV WHICKER (NO PHONE)

**NON-COMMITTEE -**

EDUCATION MARGARET WEAVER 888 125  
MEDIA MARNY BONNER 224 611 (ANS MACH)  
FUNDRAISER MARG DEAN 878 033  
PUBLIC OFFICER JOHN GOUGH 281 355  
ENVIRONMENT JULIE REID 888 320  
DATA BASE & NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
JENNY VERROEN 840 115

KYOGLE - MARIETTE 362 290  
LISMORE - ROSTER 888 327 OR  
PAULINE 899 219  
BYRON - RAYLEE 858 350  
BALLINA - FRAN 295 274  
EVANS HEAD - JOYCE 832 427  
WEST OF RANGE - JENNY 653 224  
CASINO - LEONIE 641 282  
CORAKI - SANDY 832 140

BAT RESCUE - ROBYN & EV 281 355

SEABIRDS - LANCE 015 299 671 OR  
862 852 (HOME)

RAPTORS - WENDY 283 568 AND  
DAVE 834 606

NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE,  
ALSTONVILLE - 281 177

**... ?? Are you being mis-spelled ?? ...**

Our data base needs constant fine tuning to keep current with carers who move house, change name, address or phone number, or have more than one person in the household on our newsletter list.

Please, **CHECK YOUR LABEL NOW**  
and drop me a note (or phone me on 840 115)  
if something needs to be updated or corrected.

Thanks! jenny

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

DEADLINE for material will be LAST DAY OF THE ODD MONTHS

MAILOUT should be in LAST WEEK OF EVEN MONTHS



- Please post contributions direct to -



JENNY VERROEN



P O Box 332, MULLUMBIMBY 2482



**The last word...**

Hello everyone,

I'm very grateful for your continuing support. Please keep sending items for our newsletter. Thanks!

You will have read the Lyssavirus update in this issue. What a worry to wildlife carers everywhere. It is so important for us all to comply with present requirements and be vaccinated. I have wondered if future research may find a completely different culprit; like mosquitos, perhaps. Could it be that bats are just victims, along with humans and most other animals, of these blood-thirsty pests? This is entirely my idle speculation. But stranger things have happened – after all, bats were blamed at first for Ross River fever (another mosquito triumph). More frogs! Bring more frogs! They eat mosquitoes, don't they?

The silly season is almost upon us (it reached

me first), and we must fight our natural desire to crawl under the bed with a good book until February. What with holiday makers, city folk visiting the country, overseas visitors visiting the country, lots of extra traffic, scorching heat and flooding rains, PLUS the 'help' of humans like Dr Rod describes on page 10 – our native wildlife needs us more than ever before.

**Hang in there!**

Next deadline is January 31.

Cheers,

JENNY VERROEN, editor – 840 115

PO Box 332, Mullumbimby 2482

PS: Give your friends the Australian Museum's book list to help them choose your special presents.

**NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS, INC.**  
**P O Box 6439, SOUTH LISMORE 2480**

*PRINT POST APPROVED*  
*PP: 216477/0024*

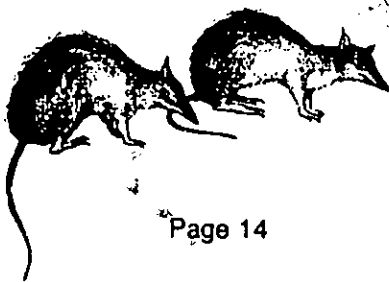
**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**

Georgia Beyer  
Dans Farm, Murray Scrub  
Toonumbah 2474

*Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, Inc. is a network of  
trained volunteers and specialists licensed by  
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service to  
rescue, relocate and rehabilitate native fauna.*

*All donations \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.*



# NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS, Inc.



## NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST, 1998 :: NO. 21

### AGM election report

AN EXCELLENT TURNOUT of close to 50 members attended the fourth Annual General Meeting of Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, Inc., at the Lismore Workers Club on August 17. During the meeting, footage of superb 15 second spot ads produced by National Parks & Wildlife Service media officer (Grafton) Mr Lawrence Orel were screened, along with a video of TV coverage our group has enjoyed over the past year.

All positions were filled with the

exception of Ballina co-ordinator. President Jackie Maisey's annual report is reproduced later in this newsletter, as is a balance sheet from our auditor's report, kindly compiled by G W H Tones, Chartered Accountant, of Ballina.

Your new committee extends grateful thanks to all who stood for election and all who have served our group in the past.

A list of area co-ordinators with phone numbers appears on page 5.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**President Jackie Maisey 282 066**  
**Vice Pres Debbie Ford 243 244**  
**Secretary Margaret Weaver 888 125**  
**Treasurer Michael Cochran 882 223**  
**Co-ordinator Liaison Raylee**  
**Rayward 858 350**  
**NPWS Liaison John Gough 281 355**  
**Public Relations Cheryl**  
**Cochrane 882 223**

#### ORDINARY MEMBERS —

**Robyn Gough 281 355**  
**Marie Bull 295 242**  
**Merv Whicker (no phone)**

#### NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS

**Education Officer**  
**Margaret Weaver 888 125**

**Media Officer Marny Bonner**  
**224 611 (Work/Ans Mach)**

**Fundraiser Marg Dean 878 033**

**Public Officer**  
**John Gough 281 355**

**Environmental Officer**  
**Julie Reid 888 320**

**Data Base & Newsletter Editor**  
**Jenny Verroen 840 115**

Licensed by NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service to rescue, relocate and rehabilitate native fauna.

Licence No. GL 1301

Charity No. CFN 14907

P O BOX 6439, SOUTH LISMORE, NSW 2480



# Co-ordinator reports



*A big thank you to Ballina co-ordinator Carole Morris who has been a stalwart member since inception. Carole is taking a well-earned rest from co-ordinating. She will be greatly missed. Thanks also, Carole, for dealing with all the phones during our AGM. We hope to find a co-ordinator for Ballina very soon. Please call Jackie Maisey if you're interested in the Ballina spot.*

## **Ballina Area Report.**

During June, 17 birds came in. 5 released, 9 died and 3 euthanased. 4 Bobuck possums came in, 3 died and 1 euthanased. 1 Swamp wallaby died and an advice call for an Echidna was handled. During July 27 birds came in with 5 released, 10 died, 10 euthanased and 2 still in care. 2 blue-tongue lizards were released and relocated, another Swamp wallaby died and an Echidna released. We handled 3 advice calls for birds and one for a snake.

A mother Pacific black duck and her nine baby ducklings couldn't find their way out of a backyard in West Ballina. With some help from a neighbour and a carer, they came through the gate and were directed down the road to the river. Thank you again, Flo, for being on hand to help.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, carers, vets, and everyone else who has worked with me and helped out over the years I have been Ballina co-ordinator. I really appreciate it. I have met and talked to some won-

derful people. In some ways I will miss all that, but won't miss the ringing of the phone! — **Carole Morris**

## **Lismore Area Report**

In June we had 101 calls. 32 birds needed assistance of which 6 were euthanased, 6 died, 9 released and 9 advice only. Two birds went into care and were later released. Echidnas are still on walkabout with ten advice calls. Two tiny Pademelon joeys came into care but were too small to survive. Wendy Damaso received a female Eastern Grey joey with a split lip (sutured) and 'breasts' due to a thyroid problem. She is doing well thanks to vet Richard Creed. We had 11 calls regarding reptiles, mainly advice only.

July being mid winter and our quiet time of year meant only 82 calls. 35 were birds with 10 released, 9 died, 10 euthanased, 4 advice and 2 still in care. Again two tiny Pademelon joeys and a Swamp Wallaby joey, all too small to survive. Wendy Damaso received another female Eastern Grey joey, this one with a broken leg. Thanks to vet David Jones and a plaster cast, she should be fine by the time she is big enough to leave the pouch. A male Red-necked wallaby 'pinkie' went to Judy Rabbitt. A badly debilitated possum rescued by Helen Simeoni from the Wilsons River was euthanased, and a 40g Bobuck possum died. Only three Echidna calls with one relocated and two advice.

Four reptile calls gave advice on two snakes and a bearded dragon; a blue-tongued lizard died. We also had a ferret who had lost its owner!

I did not stand as co-ordinator at the AGM and Pauline Burnap has taken over the job. Thanks and good luck, Pauline. We need more Lismore carers to help on the phone roster – even one day a month or taking a turn on stand-by would be a great help. You will be supplied with a set of notes to assist with processing the calls. Any carer interested, please phone me on 888 125 or Pauline on 899 219.

As the busy Spring season is about to start, it is very important for carers to phone Pauline **IMMEDIATELY** when receiving any bird or animal and reporting the outcome so she can keep our log book for NPWS up to date. I will continue to keep the Marsupial Register. Please co-operate with information and record keeping to benefit other carers, as well as any orphans coming into care.

I would like to thank all the Lismore carers for their help over the past six months and trust you have cages and emergency food supplies ready for the Spring Rush. My special thanks to Helen, Vicki, Pauline, Wendy and Jackie for their invaluable assistance on the roster and to Debbie for changing the tape each day. Last but not least, a sincere thank you to our Lismore vets for their wonderful help and understanding over the past year.

— **Margaret Weaver**  
(reports continued page 4...)



# TRAINING DAYS



Part of our commitment as wildlife carers is to attend training days whenever possible. We look forward to seeing you there.

- **FLYING FOX TRAINING Sunday, September 1st •**  
**at Wollongbar Agricultural Station, Bruxner Hw.ay.**  
**Starts 10:30 am.**

**No Charge – Donation for cost of notes – BYO Lunch**

**Ph Robyn or Evelyn 281 355**

An authority to care for Flying Foxes will be issued

-----  
**ADVANCED FLYING FOX TRAINING DAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH AT**  
**Pamplermousse Park with Linda Collins – see Robyn's Flying Foxes &**  
**Micro-Bats report on page 5 for more details**

- **BIRDS Sunday, September 22nd •**  
**Rescue & Care of Injured Birds**  
**at Wollongbar Ag Station 9:00am – 3:00pm**  
**\$15 includes a copy of 'Bird Care' by Heather Parsons**

(\$5 for day if you bring your own 'Bird Care' book)

**Morning & Afternoon Tea provided, BYO Lunch**  
**On Sale – Wombaroo Bird food & Supplements,**  
**Mealworms, Books, NRWC T-Shirts \$12**

An authority to care for Birds will be issued

-----  
**CLARENCE VALLEY WIRES ARE HOLDING:**

- 1. Snake Handling Weekend October 26 & 27**  
**call Jeff Hayter 215 629, and**
- 2. Helen George Weekend (Macropods, Possums & Echidnas)**  
**November 16 & 17 – call Margaret Weaver 888 125**



**Reports, con't from pg 2...**

## **Casino Area report**

June - Only four calls received, three of which were birds. A Pheasant coucal died, an egret had to be euthanased. A Wedge-tail eagle, after 3 attempts, was finally rescued thanks to a property owner who found her in his paddocks. She was a very sick girl and is now in Wendy Lawrence's care. [See Wendy's report - Ed.] Our final call came from a householder with a very small yard and 3 mischevious bandicoots who had taken up residence. All were trapped and relocated - thanks for the loan of the trap, Craig.

July - Three calls; a duckling (cat attack) died, and a dove (another cat attack) also died. Thanks Vickie and Rose for trying to save them. Finally a very large Echidna had to be rescued from a wheelie bin and relocated.

An update on the Wedge-tail; her wing has healed, she is looking a lot better but still has a long fight ahead with infectious arthritis in her knee. Thanks to Wendy's wonderful care, the injuries and ailments she arrived with are dramatically reduced. So fingers crossed and hope she will keep improving.

- Leonie Webb

### **NOTE:**

Leonie's phone number  
WRONG in last Newsletter -  
the correct ones are 641282  
home, 0142 756914 Mobile.

## **Kyogle Area Winter Report**

(The Kyogle area is now being reported separately from Casino, and both areas have their own co-ordinator.)

It has been very quiet over winter which, we

hope, is good for the wildlife. In June we had a Common brushtail possum with a 30g pouch joey euthanased after being hit by a car; also euthanased, a magpie with badly broken wing. Advice was sought on a bandicoot, a lorikeet was released after a short time in care and a Rosella didn't survive being hit by a car. A female Red-legged pademelon with joey in pouch had spinal injured and both died. A male Red-necked wallaby is ready for release at Judy Rabbit's, a Mountain brushtail female was released and lives with her male companion in Tallowood.

During July only two calls, advice on a Tawny frogmouth and euthanasia of a Common brushtail possum hit but a car.

We hope to hold an

information stall soon in Kyogle for prospective carers and new carers who are waiting to attend Training Days.

- Mariette Mallam

## **Byron Area report**

We received 54 bird calls during June. 15 released, 10 euthanased and 16 died, while 12 were advice only and 1 is still in care. There were 9 snake calls with 1 released, 3 relocated and 5 advice only. Of the 4 Echidna calls, 2 died and 2 were advice only. Of 8 possum calls 5 died and 3 were advice only; there were 5 Macropod calls, 4 for advice and 1 died after being hit by a car. One Northern brown bandicoot also died in care. Feral animal calls are on the increase in our area; we received 8 calls, 5 advice only and 3 animals were

### **Health alert!**

Due to a carer's recent experience with a health scare, I want to highlight the importance of strict hygiene when handling native fauna, particularly when you first encounter an animal and are in the early stages of handling it.

Often we are so anxious to provide aid to an injured animal that we overlook any diseases it may be carrying and which may be passed on to us. Although most diseases are species specific (not transmitted to another species such as us), there are some exceptions. Please exercise care, especially if your own skin is broken or scratched, if you have an open wound or if there is a chance of being bitten.

Please don't overlook your Tetanus shot and Tetanus booster (after all, it's only once every ten years). If you can't remember when you last had one or if it has been a long time, ask your family doctor to arrange a Tetanus shot for you as soon as possible. The complaint is much, much worse than the preventative shot.

It never hurts to be cautious as well as caring, so keep up the good work!

- Debbie Ford



**Reports, cont...**  
euthanased.

July has been Byron Shire's quietest month this year with only 43 bird calls. 7 released, 2 euthanased, 13 died, 4 are still in care and 17 advice only calls. Snakes were quieter with only 2 calls, one relocation and one referred to Tweed Valley; 2 advice only Echidna calls; Lynn McLaren released 3 Saw-shelled tortoises on her property. 3 Blue tongue lizards came into care, 2 had to be euthanased and one died. A Green tree frog also died. 2 Swamp wallaby calls, one euthanased and one advice only. We also had 2 insectivorous bat calls, one euthanased and one advice. A Bush rat (Fuscipies) died in care and 2 Rattus calls resulted in 1 dead and 1 advice only. With 7 possum calls 1 died, 1 was released, 3 advice only and I have in care 2 baby sugar gliders. They came into care weighing 20g and 22g respectively. Both are doing really well.

Bob Olehman was telling me he received a call from a bloke about a cow he reckoned had Mad Cow disease. There's never a dull moment as a wildlife carer.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Lynn, Bob, Jenny, Suze, Wendy and Merv and all the other carers out there who have supported me and made the last 12 months such an enjoyable time. Thanks for everything you have done and contributed towards the Byron Shire group. It means a great deal to me.

Also many thanks to all the vets of the Shire - your ongoing assistance is greatly appreciated by all the Byron Shire carers.

Last but not least, thanks to all the committee members for your hard work. It's been a rewarding year.

- Raylee Rayward

## **CO-ORDINATORS**

**AREA 1, KYOGLE:** MARIETTE MALLAM 362 290

**AREA 2, LISMORE:** PAULINE BURNAP 899 219 OR  
LISMORE ROSTER 888 327

**AREA 3, BYRON:** RAYLEE RAYWARD 858 350

**AREA 4, BALLINA/ALSTONVILLE:** - VACANT -  
Expressions of interest to Raylee Rayward,  
Jackie Maisey, or to any committee member

**AREA 5, EVANS HEAD:** JOYCE SKINNER 832 427

**AREA 6, WEST OF RICHMOND RANGE:**  
JENNY MOODY 653 224

**AREA 7, CASINO:** LEONIE WEBB 641 282

**AREA 8, CORAKI:** SANDY LAWLER 832 140

**BATS:** ROBYN & EVELYN GOUGH 281 355

**SEABIRDS:** LANCE FERRIS 015 299 671, 862 852 (H)  


**NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE, ALSTONVILLE:** 281 177

## **Flying foxes & micro-bats:**

Attention Flying Fox carers or potential carers, or people who would just like to see how you can best capture and handle a wild adult Flying Fox. You may be the first person to come across a bat on a barbed wire fence, alone in a grevillea or injured beside the road. If you have seen Nelson, our public relations FF 'caught' and perhaps even had a go at 'catching' him yourself, you will feel much more competent and confident doing it in an emergency situation. Remember, a FF on its own in the daytime is always in trouble and needs to come

into care. A FF on a barbed wire fence needs to be wrapped in a towel and the barbs cut - never cut the Flying Fox!! An electrocuted FF in October, November and December may have a baby under its wing. Get out of the car and have a good look, then do some high-pitched squeaking (wildlife carers are expected to behave in an eccentric manner). A baby will usually respond to the sound by moving or answering. If there is no sign of a baby on the wires, squeak and look closely on the ground in case it has already fallen. They flap enough to break their fall and are seldom hurt. Try to carry binoculars in your car during the

Spring season.

If you would like to care for an orphaned FF and something stops you attending the training day, please let me know in case we have a busy year. We can do hands-on training with lots of the orphans at our home.

We have never had such a busy year for microbats. Ever since the flood they have been coming from everywhere. Ben Radic has done a wonderful job with the long-term ones; six are presently over-wintering with her and have made great recoveries. One bat, 'Andy', who was found on the ground and could barely fly, can now do aerobatics and even a special trick where he hovers and then zapps backwards as if on elastic! Heather is the smallest – we think she is elderly and was literally black, red and blue all over and would barely move after deciding to live in a man's overalls in the shed and being thumped around in them before she showed herself to the very sympathetic owner. Another shot out of a tractor exhaust when the surprised farmer turned it on. It recovered in only 24 hours – hope it looks for a wooden house next time! Rod Dash has also had great success with microbats this year.

The Advanced Flying Fox Training Day is on Sunday, September 8th. Anybody who has already raised a FF is welcome. Also co-ordinators who may need to keep an animal for 24 hours before we can get it transport, and people who always do rescues, please try to come as well as stabilisers. Linda Collins will be conducting the day, sharing with us her years as a stabiliser with Ku-ring-gai Bat Colony Committee and research into captive animals. Linda Collins' book is now released and will

## Farmarama

SEPTEMBER 12, 13 & 14

•• We need volunteers ••

Ring Cheryl Cochran now

882 223

be on sale at both Bat days for \$14. It is very comprehensive and highly recommended.

Bring your own lunch for Sunday, September 1st. Tea and coffee will be available. Don't forget \$12 to join the group or renew membership for the year if you haven't already, and we do appreciate a donation for the papers on the day.

Hope to see lots of you at the training days. Please leave little ones (humans, that is) at home if possible. No need to ring before coming unless you have a query.

A cry for help! Ben Radic uses 1,000 mealworms each week so if you have spare, please bring them along to either training day for Ben.

— Robyn & Ev  
281355



### Wendy Lawrence's Raptor Report

I have had nine raptors in care in the period January to end of June. Only two have been short-term cases, able to be released within a week or so of coming to me. One of these was a male Brown goshawk which was found at Coorabel Swamp. The bird was unable to move its legs but otherwise appeared fairly alert.

Whilst it was being checked over at the Alstonville Vet Hospital, a paralysis tick was found above its left eye.

Serum was given – this was at 6.00pm and by 10.30am next day the bird was attempting to stand. By 5.00pm it managed to perch, although a little unsteadily. It had eaten all the food I had placed in the cage. By the afternoon of the third day it appeared to have fully recovered. It was very alert, flying and perching accurately on branches of various heights and widths. I gave it as much food as it could eat – the record being 4 mice and 2 chicks one day – and it was released five days later, early in the morning and very close to where it was found at Coorabel.

A Boobook owl was the second bird I have had in care for a short period. This bird had been hit by a car near Rock Valley. Fortunately no bones were broken and it appeared to be suffering from concussion. By the second evening, it was much better and quite aggressive. I moved it into the large aviary and checked it at intervals during the night. It flew beautifully and during the night ate three of the mice I had put in the cage. I took it back to Rock Valley the following evening and released it shortly after dusk. It took off the minute I opened the cage door and flew to almost the highest branch in a nearby tree. It stayed there watching me for a short while and then took off. I soon lost

sight of it in the darkness.

I have had two male Sparrowhawks. The first one I received in early January. It had suspected soft tissue or tendon damage and the wing was strapped for a couple of weeks. However, the wing was drooping a fair bit even after a few weeks of having had the strapping removed and a fair bit of flying practice. So an X-ray was taken and this revealed that the humerus had, in fact, been broken. As a result the bird would never regain the agility needed for survival in the wild. I was unable to place it with Currumbin, Fleays, or Taronga Zoo, and so the bird was euthanased.

The second Sparrowhawk I received had been hit by a car in Lismore. It was unable to stand and had an injured right eye. The legs healed well over the next few weeks but the eye did not look to be healing. I took the bird back to the vet and it appeared that it no longer had any vision in that eye. This bird was also euthanased as it, too, would not have been able to survive in the wild.

I have three birds in care at the moment. One is a female Australian Kestrel. This bird was found under a car in a car park in Lismore. She has a broken left wing which has been pinned in two places and strapped. She still has another couple of weeks to go before the pins can be removed. It will be some time after that before we know if her wing has healed sufficiently well for her release. The second bird in care is a Boobook owl. This bird was found close to Casino and it has an injured right eye. Time will tell if this bird can be released. The third bird in care is a female Wedge-tail eagle and I shall write about her at the end of this report.

The first of three Wedge-tail eagles came to me in January. This one was from Ellangowan and had been found by a farmer in a very distressed state, flapping on the ground and being trampled by cows. It was in very poor condition, anaemic and covered in lice. Ella, as the eagle was called, was constantly ravenous. Within four days she had improved from being unable to stand at all to being able to hop on to a perch. She rapidly picked up condition and everything was going well for the release until I noticed a lump on the right side of Ella's neck. The vets at Astonville removed the lump and fortunately it turned out to be a large cyst. All went well from then on and I took Ella back to Ellangowan to be released in March. Ella showed some reluctance to fly off and remained in a tree. Linda Brooks and Dee Lentfer said they would keep an eye on her. The next morning they saw her on the ground, in the company of another Wedge-tail, eating the rabbit I had left there the previous day. The following morning both eagles were seen sitting on fence posts close together and, a little later on, circling

overhead. I was delighted. At the time of writing, both eagles Dee has seen on a number of occasions.

The second Wedge-tail eagle came from Ocean Shores. It had been seen floating in a canal. This bird had difficulty in balancing, seeing, and was very weak. A central nervous system injury was suspected. The bird was given a multi-vitamin and vitamin B injection, antibiotics, and sprayed for lice which were, and always seem to be, rampant on eagles – especially those in poor condition. It weighed 2.1kg – very light for a male. A week later the bird was better at balancing and walking. It was eating almost 800g of food a day. It now could see where its food was placed and picked it up. However, it would not fly and bumped into perches. It appeared that it was unable to see anything above it and after three weeks, when there was no improvement, the decision was made to euthanase the bird.

The third Wedge-tail eagle I still have in care. This bird came from near Tabulam. She was first seen on the ground on a Thursday but it was not until the following Monday afternoon

Ω Ω

Ω Ω

## STOP PRESS!

**We're the lucky charity at  
LISMORE CAR BOOT MARKET**

**Sunday, October 20th**

**We need lots of help, so please**

Ω Ω

**BE THERE**

Ω Ω

**Ring Marg Dean 878 033**

that she was finally captured. By then she was so weak and exhausted that she was just picked up.

She was taken to Alstonville Vet Hospital. No bones in her legs or wings were broken but she was severely anaemic and undernourished. She had a drooping left wing, which was strapped up, and her right leg was stiff in its movements. She weighed only 3kgs – very light for a female. She was given injections of steroids and multi-vitamins, wormed and sprayed to get rid of the lice. She was heavily infested with them. She was put on a course of two antibiotics a day for ten days.

She accepted captivity well and soon was eating a vast amount of whatever she was given – this included chopped up rabbit, rats, shin beef, liver and while mice and chicks. She spent most of the first few days lying on the ground and then tried perching. However, her injured leg made it difficult for her to perch for any length of time.

After ten days her drooping wing was looking much better but there had been minimal improvement in her leg. During the next week she was taken back to the vet hospital a couple of times for X-rays and more steroid, anti-inflammatory, thiamine and multi-vitamin injections. She was still very anaemic. An X-ray revealed a very swollen right knee and much fluid around the bone. Some of this fluid was extracted and sent to the Wollongbar Veterinary Laboratory. The results revealed that she had infectious arthritis which is treatable with antibiotics. So she was again put on antibiotic capsules, this time for thirty days.

Emie (the name has stuck despite the fact she is female) is now able to spend

a good proportion of the day on padded perches but still chooses to lie on the ground as well. She is still finding it difficult to move her right leg and is reluctant to put weight on it for any length of time. Her injured wing is now level with the uninjured one and she is able to fly the short distance available in the aviary. She has started to preen for the first time since her capture and enjoys being hosed down with water. Her weight has risen to 5kgs – an increase of 2kgs in six weeks. However, it is likely to be many months before, and if, she is ready to be released. She has full movement in her injured leg and so, hopefully, it is just a matter of time until the infection and swelling disappear.

My thanks to go Mike FitzGerald and Evan Kosack of the Alstonville Vet Hospital who have seen a great deal of me and the raptors in the last few months. My thanks also to the vets Richard Creed and Ian King. Patrick Lavis I must thank for providing me with cheap meat and also thanks to my friends who have kept an eye out for dead rabbits on the roads!

– Wendy Lawrence, 17.8.96



### Publicity Officer Cheryl Cochran reports...

It's been a busy couple of months. The Students & Sustainability Conference at Southern Cross Uni ran for four days. Delegates came from all over Australia, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. We had an informa-

tion stand for the four days and thanks to all members who spent time there. Jeff Hayter and his son Justin did a Snake Workshop which was very popular, 45 people attending. Thanks Jeff and Justin. Lance and Seabird Rescue provided a field trip to Ballina, taking some students out in the boat, and managed to rescue an injured pelican. Well done!

Robyn Gough led a field trip from the bat colony at Booyung through to John and Robyn's fruit orchard. They showed delegates how orchards can be successfully netted and how steeper slopes can be planted with native food trees for wildlife.

Straight after the Students & Sustainability Conference we had Pet Expo. Our information stand was very popular with PR animals Nelson, Charlie and Chainsaw in attendance. It was a big day for everyone but our stand drew lots of attention. By the afternoon, Chainsaw, our PR python, succumbed to the warm sunshine and settled in for a nap in Marie Bull's arms, wrapping herself around Marie's donation tin and went to sleep with her head on Marie's name badge. And we still got donations! A great effort. At the end of July, Jeff and Peter attended Nimbin Markets for an information day. As usual the snakes were very popular.

Events coming up are **Famarama on September 12, 13 & 14th**. We also have **Snake Awareness Week** happening at the Big Scrub Environment Centre in Lismore **October 8 to 12**. We are hoping to improve public awareness and provide information about snakes before the busy season begins. Anyone who can help out on either occasion, please give me a call on 882 223.

– Cheryl Cochran

## President's report

I'd like to begin by thanking the committee for their understanding and patience with me as I continue to learn the many rules and regulations concerning the chairing of meetings and the parameters laid down by our constitution and our NPWS licence, within which we have to operate.

Quite a few positive things have come to fruition in the past twelve months. We have been granted Charitable Fundraising Status, Tax Deductability and exemption from Financial Institutions Duty. Now that we are 'all legal' so to speak, the next twelve months should see us with a healthy bank balance.

John Gough first brought to our attention that Readers Digest were running a competition for groups like ours and that the prize would be \$25,000. Cheryl Cochran put a lot of hours with others, into the compiling of our entry. Then it was passed to NPWS who had offered to put our information together in a presentable format. Many thanks must go to Lisa Russ and Lyn Skillings who somehow managed to come up with this book in an incredibly short time. It was sent off. We didn't win but we now have a very solid basis for the applications of future grants.

A very big thank you to National Parks & Wildlife Service, courteously lobbied by John Gough, for the \$1,000 donation towards our bulk food costs this Spring. Your co-ordinator will extend the benefit of this donation towards your specialised foods as long as it lasts!

To give you an example of what lots of hard work and many hours of

writing and with the help of publicity can achieve, Sea Bird Rescue has recently received \$2,000 from the Victorian Animal Lovers, \$1,000 from Australian Geographic, and \$1,000 donation from Basil Hayter, the owner of Shaw's Bay Hotel where pelicans will be fed now on a daily basis and \$2,500 from the International Fund for Animal Welfare, so congratulations to Lance and Marny for their persistence - it has paid off.

I would like to congratulate all the carers, drivers, co-ordinators and helpers whose jobs take a lot of time and patience; thank you to the committee for all the time that has been put into the group's business over the last twelve months. Very little would be achieved without the support of the many vets who give of their time and expertise, and NPWS which is constantly available with advice and support.

For the future, John Gough has approached NPWS for a large cage for Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, Inc. It is presently planned to locate our cage at Dave Roach's property for raptor care.

I look forward to much more communication between carers, committee and co-ordinators. It would be ideal to have committee meetings at other locations every so often such as Byron, Kyogle, etc. Members could attend the committee meeting and stay for a BBQ lunch or just come for the BBQ. Either way, it would be nice to see each other during the year, exchange ideas and get to know those voices on the phone.

Fundraising - I feel each area should work towards having their own team of fundraisers to co-ordinate with the overall

efforts of our Fundraising Officer Marg Dean.

I think it's time we expanded our horizons. I would like to see the group purchase and equip an Educational Display Trailer with displays, pamphlets, etc. which could be used at markets, information days, pet expo, schools and other opportunities. The future of our wildlife rests with the education of our children as they will have the responsibility to see that species and habitats survive. The children, now in primary and secondary school, will be the buyers of land, the planters of trees, and the decision-makers in local and federal bodies over the coming 20 years. They are our most effective means of changing the parents' and grandparents' ideas on conservation, as they have constant access to them and, as all parents know they never stop talking!

We hope to have quite a few more awareness weeks at the Big Scrub Environment Centre in Lismore, now that we have an even closer association with the Centre through our publicity officer Cheryl Cochran, who is helping to plan a Snake Awareness Week at the Big Scrub during the October school holidays.

The responsibility of an effective group does not rest with the committee. Each individual has to make a contribution to make a success of fundraising, communication and the sharing of knowledge.

**- Jackie Maisey,  
President**



STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT  
30 JUNE 1996

	At 30.6.96 \$	At 30.6.95 \$
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
Accumulated Funds at 30 June 1995	7,504	10,425
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Statements		
- General Account (Excess Income)	2,605	92
- Kyogle Branch (Excess Expenditure)	( 33)	123
- Lismore Branch (Excess Expenditure)	( 549)	( 429)
- Byron Bay Branch (Excess Expenditure)	( 746)	( 457)
- Ballina Branch (Excess Expenditure)	( 279)	-
- Flying Fox Rescue (Excess Expenditure)	( 231)	( 1,439)
- Seabird Rescue (Excess Income)	2,668	( 811)
<b>Balance, 30 June 1996</b>	<b>\$ 10,939</b>	<b>\$ 7,504</b>
<b>Represented by -</b>		
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank - Public Fund	2	-
- General Account	5,046	1,218
- Fundraising Account (Refer Note)	2,045	-
- Kyogle	-	136
- Flying Fox Rescue	-	861
Stock on Hand	790	436
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>7,883</b>	<b>2,651</b>
<b>ADD: NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Plant and Equipment		
- Boat, Motor and Trailer	3,600	3,600
- Outboard Motor	500	500
- Answering Machine	150	150
- Flying Fox Cages	1,208	1,208
- Pelican Net	800	800
	6,258	6,258
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	2,136	1,105
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>4,122</b>	<b>5,153</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>12,005</b>	<b>7,804</b>
<b>LESS: LIABILITIES</b>		
Sundry Creditor	-	300
Income in Advance	1,066	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 10,939</b>	<b>\$ 7,504</b>

## Food balls for Figbirds

When I received my first baby Figbird, it was suggested I feed it pawpaw, grapes, soaked sultanas and pear. As quickly as I fed it, out came the food from the other end and the poor little thing just sat there, mouth open wide, shaking its head madly and indicating it was hungry. I made up a mixture of crushed arrowroot biscuits, Wombaroo Lorieket powder, Wombaroo Insectivore mix, a few drops of calcium, mixed all together with water and added vitamins in the form of Avi-vite - and rolled the result into pea-size balls. This seemed to stick to it's tummy. We then went to a rainforest remnant and found some fresh fruits and berries, which I chopped and added to the biscuit mix. Success! This proved to be the answer to rearing the first and several more baby Figbirds.

Last year we had a Wompoo pigeon with a broken wing. He would not eat ordinary fruit and was very particular about the fig and other rainforest fruit, so we gathered whatever ripe, fresh fruits were available and chopped them finely, and combined with the biscuit mix. He loved them and thrived. I found that the White-headed pigeon responded in the same way to my mixture.

We gather ripe fresh figs and lilly pilly when available and freeze them immediately to prevent fermentation. Take them out and use as needed. The balls can be made in advance and frozen ready for use, but care must be taken not to let the fruit ferment, so use immediately when thawed.

I now have an adult Figbird and as there is not much fruit available, as well as my 'balls' he eats the thawed figs and lilly pilly.

- Marie Bull  
295 242.

## The Magpie

A common bird seen in parks and suburban gardens is the magpie. It can be recognised by its black head, belly and tail tip, with white splashes on its wings, back of the head, lower back and most of its tail. The beak is blue-grey in colour; the legs are black and the eyes are brown.

The magpie's lack of shyness has made it popular with suburban gardeners and farmers, both for its carolling song and because it eats insect pests.

### Habits

Magpies feed on small insects and animals that live on, or just under, the surface of the ground. A favourite is the scarab beetle which is a major pest of garden lawns. Magpies will also eat frogs, small lizards, grain and meat scraps.

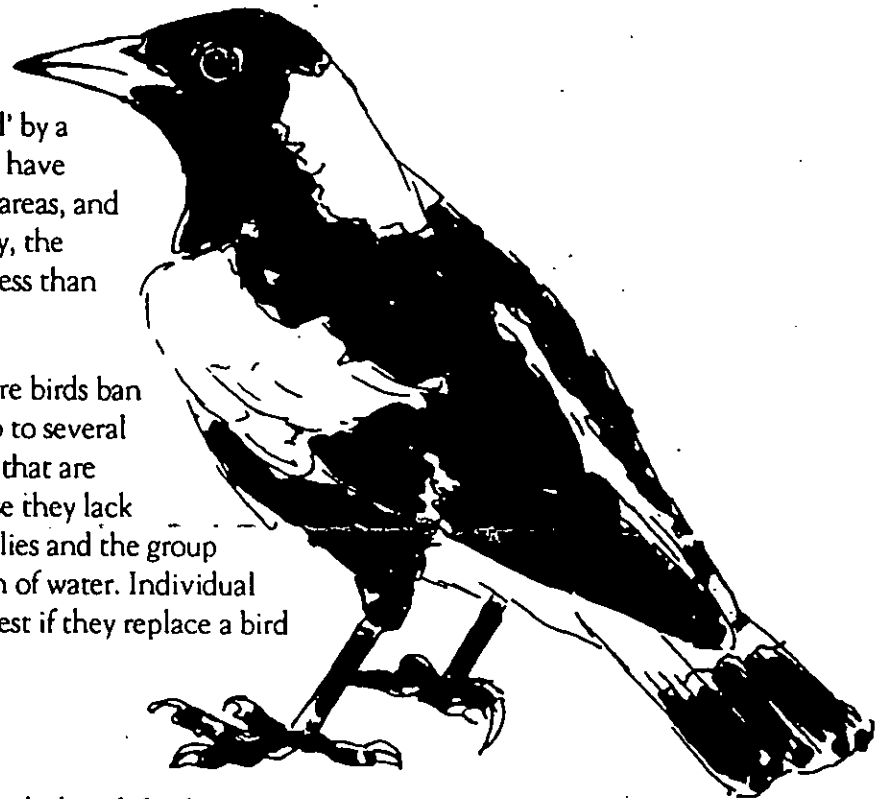
Magpies will sometimes group together in numbers of up to ten and defend a territory, but most territories are 'owned' by a male and female pair. The territory will have sufficient reliable feeding and watering areas, and tall trees for shelter and nesting. Usually, the number of males in a group territory is less than the number of females.

Young magpies and less successful mature birds band together in large groups (or tribes) of up to several hundred birds. These birds live in areas that are unsuitable as breeding territories because they lack permanent water or adequate food supplies and the group must move from place to place in search of water. Individual birds in the group will only breed and nest if they replace a bird in a breeding territory.

### Breeding

Magpies breed in their own territory which they defend against other magpies. Nesting takes place between August and October. The female usually does all the work - selecting the nest site, building the nest, incubating the eggs (one to six eggs for around three weeks) and feeding the young. Once hatched, the young are fed in the nest for about another four weeks.

Within two years the young are forced by their parents to leave the territory and live in a group until they get the chance to join a territory as an adult breeding bird. However, many young birds die in the first months of life due to poor weather conditions, lack of food, road traffic hazards and natural predators.



## ***Magpie attacks***

For most of the year magpies are not aggressive, but for four to six weeks during nesting they will often defend their territory vigorously. People walking past may be seen as 'invaders' of the territory, prompting the magpies to fly low and fast over the person clacking their bills as they pass overhead. The experience of a magpie attack can be quite alarming but magpie threats are usually warnings and only occasionally will a bird actually strike the intruder on the head with its beak or claws.

### ***What should I do if a magpie swoops at me?***

- Avoid the area where you know magpies are swooping.
- Make a temporary sign to warn other people.
- Magpies are less likely to swoop if you look at them. Try to watch the magpie while moving away quickly from the area. You can draw or sew a pair of eyes on the back of a hat and wear it when walking through the area.
- Wear a bicycle or skateboard helmet. Any sort of hat, even a hat made from an ice cream container or cardboard box, will protect you.
- Carry an open umbrella.
- Carry a stick or small branch above your head but do not swing it at the magpie as this will only provoke it to attack.
- If you are riding a bicycle when the magpie swoops, get off the bicycle and wheel it quickly through the area. Your bicycle helmet will protect your head and you can attach a tall red safety flag to your bicycle or hold a stick or branch as a deterrent.

### ***Making friends with a magpie***

One of the best ways to make friends with a magpie is to feed it occasionally. Gradually, the bird will learn to recognise you as a friend and will then be less likely to swoop you. Worms, insects, dry dog food or meat are the most suitable food. You may be able to recognise your individual magpie friends by small differences in their black and white patterns or by other physical characteristics.

Be careful when feeding them. If you give them too much food, feed them too frequently or establish a regular feeding pattern, they will become dependent on you for food and may forget how to find food for themselves. This can lead to an inadequate diet. Also, ask your neighbours if they are happy for you to feed the magpies occasionally.

### ***Magpies and the law***

Magpies are protected throughout NSW and it is against the law to kill the birds or harm or collect the eggs or young. If you feel a magpie is a menace, it should be reported to the nearest office of the National Parks and Wildlife Service or the police, who, if necessary, may be able to catch and relocate the troublesome bird, or destroy it.

Remember, a magpie swooping on people probably has eggs or chicks in the nest and if the bird is removed, the eggs will not hatch and any chicks will die. A new bird may then move in and take up residence in the territory.

***For further information please phone our Information Line on (02) 585 6333 or visit your local library***



# Important information on Flying Fox lyssavirus

## ADVICE FOR CARERS OF FLYING FOXES

A lyssavirus was recently detected in Flying Fox from the north coast of NSW. Overseas, similar viruses have very rarely caused illness and death in people who have been bitten by an infected bat. This type of virus may have been present in Australian Flying Foxes for a long time without causing any known health problems in people or animals. Further studies are underway to find out more about the virus and its presence in Flying Fox populations.

Flying Foxes are protected wildlife and should not normally be handled or disturbed. However, to assist these studies, experienced and licensed bat handlers and carers are encouraged to send terminally sick or freshly dead Flying Foxes to a government veterinary laboratory for examination, either directly or through a veterinary surgeon.

The following advice is provided to minimise the small risk that people who handle bats might be exposed to lyssavirus. There is no risk to people in the vicinity of bat colonies.

- \* Only people experienced with handling bats should attempt to catch sick bats.
- \* Take care not to be bitten or scratched.
- \* If bitten or scratched, wash the wound immediately and thoroughly with soap and water. If you have not had a tetanus vaccination within the past 10 years or if the wound becomes infected, seek the advice of your doctor.

Further information can be obtained as follows:

- \* Laboratory submissions: Contact NSW Agriculture on (066) 261 261, or after hours on (066) 280 232.
- \* Health aspects: Contact the nearest Public Health Unit (see under "Health Dept of NSW" in the local white pages telephone directory).
- \* Wildlife protection and licences: Contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service district office (see under "National Parks and Wildlife Services" in the local white pages).

*Prepared jointly by NSW Agriculture, NSW Health and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 31 July 1996.*



NSW  
NATIONAL  
PARKS AND  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

DEADLINE for material will be the LAST DAY OF THE ODD MONTHS  
MAILOUT should be in the LAST WEEK OF EVEN MONTHS

– Please post contributions direct to –

JENNY VERROEN

P O Box 332

MULLUMBIMBY 2482



## The last word...

Hello,

As your new editor I hope to produce the bi-monthly newsletter in some semblance of timely fashion. I look forward to your contributions in the way of articles, cartoons, Q&A, news items, and anything else you may feel will be of interest to the group. Write it yourself or borrow it from something you've read. Heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to my first effort which, I must admit, has been a bit of a marathon production. Ideas and criticisms (preferably constructive) are welcome.

Your committee reviews a draft of the newsletter before it goes to print. However, I take responsibility for errors and omissions; I also reserve the right to edit material for content and length.


Material that is edited will be noted as such. Items received too late or unable to be placed in a current issue will be held and acknowledged. Please post material to reach me by our deadlines (see page 11).

**Next deadline is September 30.**

Membership renewal was due July 1. This is your last newsletter if you haven't send in your renewal form and payment. September 30 is the end of the 'grace' period for late renewals.

For last minute vital items such as training days or fundraising events, please phone me and I'll do my best to include them.

Cheers,

  
JENNY VERROEN, editor - 840 115  
PO Box 332, Mullumbimby 2482

**NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS, INC.**  
**P O Box 6438, SOUTH LISMORE 2480**

PRINT POST APPROVED  
PP: 216477/0024

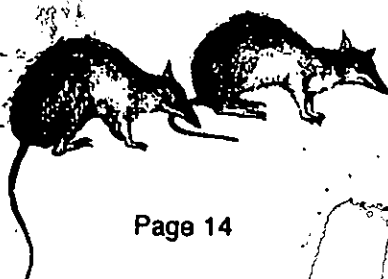
SURFACE  
MAIL

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA

Georgia **BEYER**  
Dans Farm, Murray Scrub  
Toonumbah 2474

*Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, Inc. is a network of  
trained volunteers and specialists licensed by  
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service to  
rescue, relocate and rehabilitate native fauna.*

*All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.*



From the Ivory Pit by Hamish Alcan

## The Social Ecology of Resistance - Part I

The destruction of the huge, world-sweeping movements for social change that permeated Australia in the 19th century as well as Europe, did not occur incrementally. The internal blow occurred very early on, in 1871, when the movement split, part to follow Karl Marx into the pursuit of state power in Western Europe (and Australia), the other to become increasingly marginalised. The latter's commitment was to the dissolution of power and the democratic arrangement of society's very fabric, in the "Fields, Factories and Workshops", to quote the title of one of Peter Kropotkin's works. The Marxists from then on, in times of crisis, found themselves allying themselves with the very forces of reaction in order to oppose those who dared dream "freedom". There are many, many bitter historical examples of this, the most recent and brilliant portrayal of which is the Ken Loach film, "Land and Freedom", concerning the Stalinist betrayal of the Spanish Civil War.

We can grant that portions of this inherently hierarchic approach to social change maintained their far-reaching revolutionary aspirations of freedom and the end of amoral (capitalist) relations, for some decades (about a generation). Rosa Luxembourg strived valiantly to maintain the internationalism of the worker's movement in the face of World War I, which saw industrial workers of one country hurled against industrial workers of another, at the beck and call of their respective masters. She demanded simply that they refuse to fight one another on a basis that would have been taken for granted only decades before - that national and state borders are contrary to freedom and meaningless to the radical working class; that the working class must fight united. But so much of the workers movement, in "entering the system", had taken the form of the system, clearly divided along nationalistic lines.

War devastates the social ecological fabric of a generation. Still, enough of an anti-capitalist movement survived to struggle through the Great Depression and again become a militant (if still largely nationalistic) force in the 30s. World War II, fascism/Stalinism, and the psychological impact of the Atom Bomb sent the radical social forms and aspirations of the past into a marginal oblivion, which, considering the direction their forms had taken (Stalinist Russia, Maoism, and the ALP), may have been the best thing. The first world of the 50s is a punch-drunk, displaced and fragmented generation living as if they'd just woken up on another planet. If we are going to describe the social ecological development of our own radical movements, the 50s is a fairly good place to begin, as it is sort of the last "scratch" from which we've had to start.

Movements for social change do not appear by magic, they do not appear merely because of an economic condition or an unexpected historical event. They begin in the hearts of individuals as discontentment and a yearning for something better, but they have only taken root when some such individuals come together about their discontentment and vision, however vaguely articulated. They grow as these twos and threes of discontented individuals grow and network,

n  
difficult evolution, and are informed by the mistakes and naiveties of a whole generation of counter-culture. What new potentialities does NEFA, and other confederally networked alliances, present us with now? This is a social-ecological question, and that's what I'm getting at.

person by person, introduction by introduction, and simultaneously begin to discuss and develop their sense of discontentment and their ideas for betterment, first in secret, but then slowly, as they gain confidence in their ideas, in public, on street corners and in publications, graffiti, posters, and lifestyle. The profound generation-gap of world-perspective brought on by the recession, the war, the bomb and finally the paranoid era of Macarthyism, meant that the links between these molecular social rumblings and the powerful and world-wise movements of the past were tenuous and mistrustful at best. In short, the state system had succeeded in clearfelling the political structures of society, then burning them and scattering weed-seeds to make sure the regrowth would be choked. Regrowth begins humbly, and is extremely vulnerable.

I am trying to paint a picture of social protoplasm, which demands a distinction between the social and the statist. We must never forget that however much the state thinks it owns us territorially and the corporate world has staked us out in terms of labour forces and markets, society has always existed in the forms of families, fraternities and sororities, affinity groups, clubs, guilds, towns, villages, cities and even in some spectacular demonstrations of a clear historical alternative to the state, confederations of cities. The vast majority of social happening still occurs on this social level, and has nothing to do with the state. In fact the state and its capitalist patrons depend on the organismic functioning of society so that the juice may be regularly extracted. You may see here why social ecologists view the notion of "ecologically sustainable (extraction)" with such abhorrence.

Another distinction I must make before continuing is between the statist and the political; between statecraft and politics. Politics is something citizens do - actively participating in the management of their own communities. Statecraft is something monarchs and rulers engage in, and is completely divorced from the citizenry. Our society is barely political in this sense if it only bothers with supporting "political" parties and voting. When it stands outside city hall and proclaims its demands, when it engages in direct action, when it openly discusses and debates the issues of social management within society and not just within the parameters of statecraft, then society is becoming political, in the full historical meaning of the word.

The blurring of our rich, vibrant language has not been without its political motivations and implications. These distinctions between the social, the political and the statist are crucial if we are to meaningfully explore social ecology. In the next couple of editions of *NEFA Leaf* I will pick up from the politically dead post-war generation described above and try to describe and educe the regrowth from then through the tumultuous if naive 60s era and to today. From there we may hopefully be clear not of our historical necessity, to use the traditional liberal and leftist historical motivator, but real ecological potentiality. *NEFA* itself grew in no vacuum, but was able to be cultivated because of the developing soil of environment centres, NGOs, grassroots media, and solid affinity groups, which themselves each have a long, often

difficult evolution, and are informed by the mistakes and naiveties of a whole generation of counter-culture. What new potentialities does NEFA, and other confederally networked alliances, present us with now? This is a social ecological question, and that's what I'm getting at.

## The Pikabooba Blues at 3am or the Curse of the Wicked Witch of the ~~Nth~~ *Sw West*

"The Miners are a comin , Their a comin into town"

The shout it went up the street & then it came back down.

The begining of the rumours, that went around & around & around;

In out the doorways, all through the site and town.

Its only on my land but me they didn't ask,

They would prefer I remain unseen,

Perhaps it is the colour of my task,

I could have told them that it is 85% Boral

But that doesn't worry me,

Cause mining in ~~this~~ country in total

Provides the greater G.N.P.

In ~~our~~ nations forest

Boral makes only 4% of our wealth.

I'd rather they would stick to mining

It would be better for our health!

When I signed the contract

I was told they were mining for Gas,

But Iam such a silly one

A naive green little lass;

The townsfolk have told me their mining

Uranium, Titanium & Oil,

& a myriad of other thing far beneath my soil;

I have been told Iam being paid in rent ,

A \$ 1000 per week,

All I know is Iam learning

To live without sleep;

Exhaustion is becoming a permanent state

My wits are on end

& my nerves they grate

24hrs of *Bash, Clang & Blast*;

I feel like telling these miner to stick the rig

Fair up their *R's*

The cocks they crow all night

Slightly confused,

The light that light up space

*R* the ones the miners use

The dogs they howl at this new moon

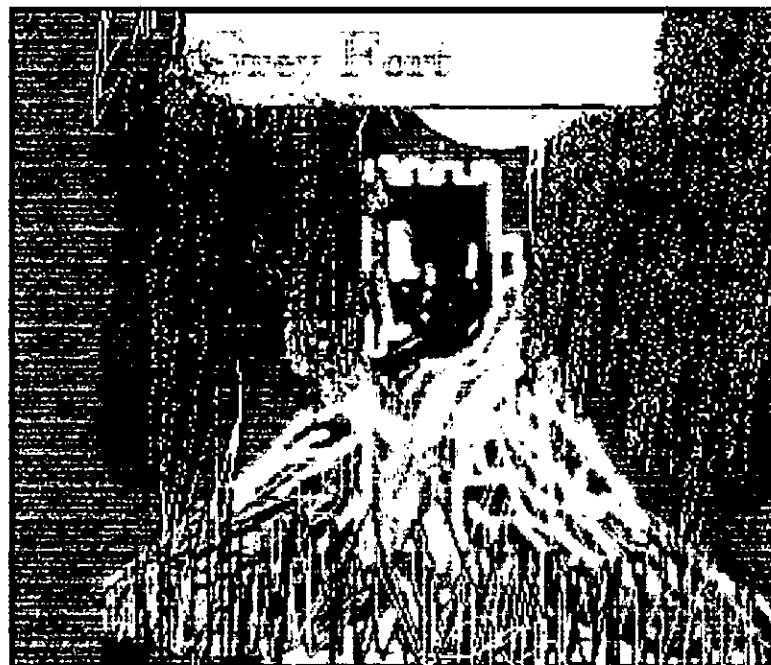
*All Night Long*

There is the loud raucous Peacock squawk  
"Fawk Off" So Long.

Then theres the blokes working on the site  
From engineers to geologists;  
& miners working day and night  
The language that I've heard  
Tis nothing new  
But put those words together  
& they are quite blue  
Theres Dave who walks around all day  
With a big wide grin,  
& the dark surly one who grunts  
Because talking is a sin  
Hang on those rig blokes  
Have been here over a week;  
& I've just twigged  
None of em can speak

They've built a pond over there  
Where blind mullets learn to swim  
And every second person on the site  
Goes by the name of Jim  
so tho it has been interesting boys  
& you've filled the townsfolks coffers  
I wish you'd bugger off real soon  
& take up other offers.

*Lesley Anne Jacobson.*







Forman, walk in the forest, and when we share our dreams and hopes with our neighbours, friends, and children.

But what can motivate us to climb and wade towards our dreams? Hopefully, the following anecdote will illustrate from where emanates my personal "Light in the Forest".

Up to the time I went to ~~one~~ of the numerous Wild Cattle Creek blockades, I supported NEFA, for purely ideological reasons. Because most of the activists that I had met ~~with~~ within NEFA, supported causes that I supported, and articulated beliefs that I held, I felt that it would help further my <sup>own</sup> political agenda, to help further theirs. Yet I still felt that I supported NEFA from outside, I had not joined the NEFA family; I was one of the cousins.

Then one morning, I found myself with about ten other activists, in the midst of Wild Cattle SF, trying to halt a logging operation by being physically in the way of the tree felling. ~~And~~ it was not working. The constabulary kept on blundering around, trying to catch us and felling ~~and~~ <sup>and yet</sup> the trees kept ~~on~~ falling. Now, I am usually quite leary of anthropomorphising, yet at one point, whilst sitting under this massive tree, I got this irrational urge that it was looking down at me, hiding between its roots. ~~and~~ It was saying "Hey naughty little monkey, what is all this fuss and bother about?" ~~And~~ I found myself talking <sup>back to</sup> ~~the~~ this gnarly ancient tree, "I am truly sorry, but we are not even slowing the logging down. ~~But~~ I will keep at it, every way I can find, until we stop them. I promise <sup>to</sup> you and every other old growth tree". So much for ideology, and a belief in ESD principles.

Anyway, ~~then~~ I stumbled back to camp, only to find it full of other tired and dejected monkeys. So I cooked dinner. The next night I cooked <sup>one of</sup> the best meals I feel I have ever cooked, ~~and~~ I am still cooking, for every blockade, fundraiser, and feral householder that I find myself in. ~~And~~ for the memory of an ancient and gnarled tree. ~~Because~~ I no longer go into the bush, I go back to the bush I have my own "social contract", and it is with every aware twolegs, fourlegs, no legs, and old growth tree.

So where does that leave those of you, endeavouring to decypher your maps of the ways to Ecotopia? All I can say is climb that mountain, and ford that river; savour the view, and drink of the water. In theory you can only get it wrong; yet in practice you can only learn from your mistakes. Do not do it because it looks good on paper. Do it for your children, for the ecosystem for your local land council. Do it with your head, and do it with your heart.

1. With apologies to Voltaire's "Candide" and Ben Chifley's "Light on the hill"
2. I was yet to own ~~my own~~ a car.

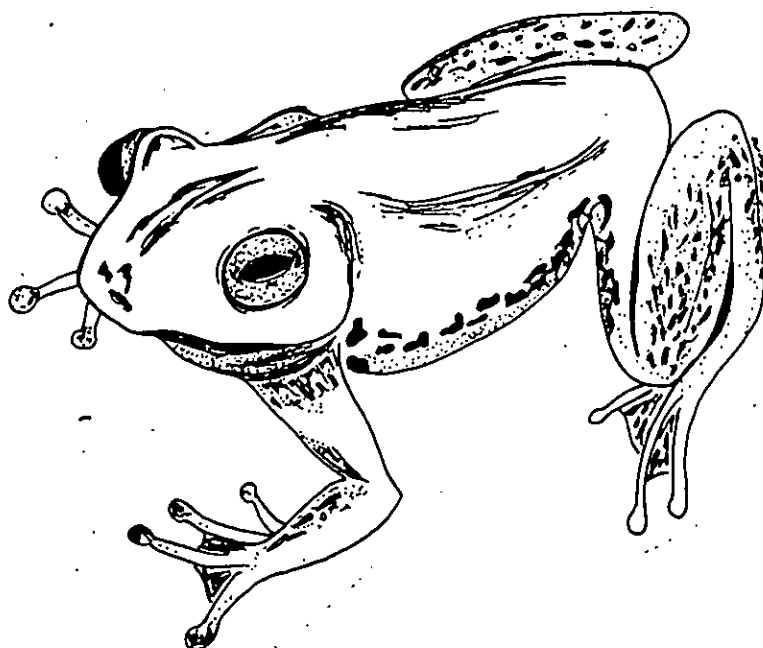
*The Summer Edition of the*  
**NEFA Leaf**

*is due out in February '97.*

*If you would like to contribute to this  
edition please send articles, pictures,  
poems, puzzles or cartoons*

*to  
Georgia Beyer  
149 Keen Street Lismore 2480  
Ph/Fax 066 224 737*

*by*  
**3rd February 1997**



## Mother Earth

Mother Earth, robed in glory,  
draped in mantles of green and blue,  
trimmed with richest gold and red.

A cornucopia of plenty,  
Whose hills and valleys  
dripped with abundance,  
Enough for all eternity

For eons there was balance,  
Millennia saw the birth and death of species  
as dinosaurs gave way to apes.  
Still your generous bounty flourished.

In a space of time like the blink of an eye  
in terms of evolution,

A menace came upon your shores.  
It walked upright, it made fire and tools.  
And it consumed everything in its path.

It collectively made a sound that said "More!"  
It's insatiable appetite devoured all that had been freely offered.  
And still that was not enough.

Mother Earth, we hear your death throes.  
We feel thee agony thrust upon you by  
the species you cradled with  
ENOUGH.

Who turned your Garden of Eden into  
A toxic hell of Man-made madness.  
And forgot that without the Earth,  
they were nothing.

Species come, and species go.  
Homo Sapiens time is almost up -  
What next? What will rise from the ashes of Man's devastation?  
For Mother Earth, we prey for something kind.

Liz Hanson

# The North-East Forests Scouting Leaflet Draft 1 Oct 1996

## Introduction

Scouting is a very important part of forest activism. Scouting is simply looking at the forest before, during and/or after logging.

## Part 1 Where

The **order of working** is a list of compartments which are being logged or on to be logged in Forest Management Area. It is obtainable from the District Forester. Look at the order of working decide which is most urgent. NEFA may also have a list of compartments which are of high priority.

## Part 2 Information

Information is essential! When you are scouting or blockading you must know what you're on about. This applies to all protests.

A **harvesting plan** must be completed before logging commences. It will include the operational map, compliance requirements and heaps of information about the compartment and the logging operation, obtainable from a State Forests Office (cost about \$25 or they will photocopy certain pages for 25c each copy).

An **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** is now required by state forests for logging operations. The EIS contains a description of the proposal, the environment and the expected impact of the proposal on the environment. Every Forest Management Area has one and they contain useful information for scouting. The Department of Planning w. **Determination** for each EIS after reading all the public submissions. These contain certain requirements for logging activities. EIS's and Determinations are available from State forests and some other government departments.

The **Statement of Affairs** from State Forests will tell what information they have available to the public. The Statement of affairs is required by all government departments and must be always available to the public.

**Maps** are an essential. There are many maps that are handy. The State Forest map shows you all the State Forests in the management area. It is easily obtained from State Forests, CaLM and most map selling places for about \$5. The 1:25000 topographic map shows you the topography and is quite detailed. It is also easily obtainable from most map selling places for about \$5. Forest type maps and compartments maps both should be on the operational map in the harvesting plan although they can be bought from State Forests.

The **Oldgrowth Protocol** was brought in to stop the destruction of Oldgrowth until all assessments were complete and it sucks. For a patch of forest to be oldgrowth it has to be over 25 hectares and within the net loggable area. It will tell you how State Forests identify oldgrowth in harvesting plans.

## Part 2 Compliance Requirements

There are requirements that must be complied with during a logging operation. They are :-

**Code of logging practice for native Forests-State Forests and Crown-timber Lands(1993).** The code sets out the minimum standards for the conduct of logging operations. The ultimate specifications for any individual logging operation will be found in the Harvesting Plan prepared and approved for that operation. The code applies to all logging operations conducted in all native forests under the control of state forests and is

condition of every Timber, Products, Contractor's and Operator's licence and sale agreement. The Code is available from State Forest Offices.

**Standard Erosion Mitigation Guidelines for Logging (SEMGL) 1993.** The SEMGL is administered by CaLM and has the legal backing of the Soil Conservation Act 1938. The SEMGL is intended to mitigate against erosion and sets guidelines for all aspects of logging. It must be complied with during and after a logging operation. The SEMGL is available from CaLM.

The conditions and requirements of **Pollution Control licence** issued by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under the Pollution Control Act 1970. Logging Operations must also be licensed by the NPWS, these also have conditions.

If any schedule 1 or 2 endangered species under Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 are known or likely to occur in the compartment then the **Fauna prescriptions** for the Northern Region must be applied. These are obtainable from the Forestry Unit, NPWS Northern Zone.

Conditions resulting from the **Determination** of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Each harvesting Plan must be approved by the NPWS, the EPA and/or the Review and Public Information Committee (RaPIC).

**Preferred Management priority (PMP)** prescriptions available from State forests along with PMP maps.

### **Part 3 What to do?**

Before you go, compare the oldgrowth map in harvesting plan (if there is one) against the NEF.ERMS if you can get access to it or the EIS, if it has a logging history map. Also you may like ring up the local forester as he may offer to personally escort you on a guided tour of the logging operation of your choice in the hope he may prevent any 'trouble'.

If you are scouting before logging begins, walk along any proposed roads to see if the road is going to go through oldgrowth. If an area is unroaded it is likely to be oldgrowth. Check the reliability of the oldgrowth map if any. Do a stump count similar to that of the OGP in any areas that haven't been mapped as oldgrowth that you think may pass the oldgrowth test.

If you have the resources, do a fauna survey. There are many techniques involved with surveying fauna. One of the easiest is spot-lighting. This technique is good for arboreal mammals and frogs and involves roaming around forest with a spot-light at night looking usually for the shine of a mammals eyes. Another technique is identifying scats and/or prints. Calls from tapes work well for some birds such as the sooty owl and arboreal mammals such as the yellow-bellied glider and koala. If you don't have proof of a endangered mammals existence such as scats, the chances are forestry won't believe you. This doesn't matter much. If you are confident you saw it, get State Forests fauna surveyor to go out there the next night to see it. If you are very confident ring the NPWS and try and get someone out there to have a look too.

Flora surveys are a bit harder. Try and identify the most common trees and try and get an idea of what different trees look like. If you see an unusual plant get a sample, write down relevant details like date and position, and send it in for identification. The

Royal Botanical Gardens in Sydney does it for price but a botanist or someone at an university or someone from a more conservative conservation group may offer their expert services for free.

If you are scouting during or after logging, make sure it is complying to all the requirements. If you find that it isn't ring the relevant government department and get them on the case. Take photographs of anything that looks that it might be illegal for evidence.

### **Part 3 You should get a copy of the following**

1. Codes of logging practice
2. SEMGL
3. List of schedule 1 and 2 endangered Species (TSC Act 1995)
4. Fauna Prescriptions for the Northern Region - Regional Management Team (RMT), State Forests
5. Fauna Prescriptions for the Northern Region - NPWS
6. EPA Pollution Control Licence
7. Harvesting Plan
8. Oldgrowth Protocol
9. Wildlife identification books

### **Part 4 Equipment**

Transport - Spare tyre, wheel brace, jack, extra fuel and anything else your car may need  
General camping gear, camera, binoculars (useful for identifying mammals & oldgrowth trees), compass

Surveying - spot light, mammal book, other identification books are useful.

### **The General Idea**

- 1) Work out what you wish to achieve and how you are going to achieve it.
- 2) Contact NEFA and write a report about your scouting adventure include date, name and place.
- 3) If you are dissatisfied with what you see ie. logging will be too steep, old growth will be logged, rainforest or endangered fauna is at risk or whatever, make a noise about it.
- 4) A Blockade may result. This is the next step but I wont go into detail here.

For more info. or help contact your local environment group or the North East Forest Alliance ph: 066 224737