



MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

A bit of sad news to start off. Our long-time Carer Coordinator, Madonna resigned on 25 April. Madonna has been caring for almost 25 years and there is no-one who knows more than she does about raising babies and rehabilitating wildlife. We will miss Madonna's knowledge and wisdom, but we know she will continue her great work for many years to come. Madonna has recommended Brett and Sally to us as new lead carers, and you can get to know them in the carers section of this newsletter. All the best Madonna!

Our Treasurer Angela resigned some time ago, but she stayed on for as long as she could to ensure we weren't left in the lurch. Angela put in a huge amount of time and effort implementing our policies and digitizing our processes. She will still be part of the rescue team in the future. Thanks Angela!

MONTHLY MEETINGS STILL POSTPONED

Restrictions are easing, but unfortunately there will be no monthly meeting again this month. We'll still try to keep in touch by email, phone and WhatsApp.

If there's anything you need to discuss urgently, please reach out to one of us. Our contact details are at the bottom of this email.



WILD KOALA PHOTO COMPETITION



As many of you know, we had to postpone our Wild Koala Day Celebration at Old Petrie Town due to COVID-19.

We ran a Facebook cover photo competition leading up to the day and asked our followers to vote for their favourite photo.

This was the winning pic, taken by Kara Hanan.

Koala "Fleet" is already quite famous in her home town of Redcliffe, and now she is Facebook famous as well!

Isn't she sweet?



RESCUE NEWS

MEET BRITTANY!

Hey team! I'm Brittany and I'm the new Rescue Coordinator. For the past 12 years I have been a vet nurse in emergency and critical care for wildlife, domestic and farm animals. I have worked in many aspects of domestic animal care, from owning my own mobile grooming business for dogs, cats and horses to running a training organisation for horses and dogs, to fostering and rehabilitating pregnant dogs and cats to get them ready for adoption. Before moving to Australia I worked with a number of different organisations to rehabilitate and release Canadian wildlife. WRES was the group I worked with before moving to Queensland, where I cared for and rescued all wildlife and specialized in macropods and koalas. I've dived in head first to lots of aspects of wildlife since joining PRKCAI and I'm excited to see how we can grow! I'm looking forward to getting to know more of you soon.



RESCUE KIT AND HANDOVER



It is more important than ever that rescuers clean and disinfect all cages, towels, poles and nets after each rescue and before handing the kit over to the rescuer on the next shift.

Having said that, because we were fortunate enough to receive such a large donation from The Breakfast Creek Hotel, we have been able to order enough equipment for 6 full kits. Stay tuned for more news on this!

TRIPLET RINGTAIL POSSUMS RESCUED

These little ringtail triplets were rescued last week after their mum was hit and killed by a car. Thankfully the babies were all uninjured, and after a quick vet check, they were transported to a carer who will look after them until they are old enough to be released.

If you have a news story you want to share, please email vicepresident@prkoalacare.com.au



RESCUE STATISTICS

| JANUARY 2020 | | FEBRUARY 2020 | | MARCH 2020 | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| Kilometres Travelled: | 813 | Kilometres Travelled: | 1697 | Kilometres Travelled: | 1403 |
| Koala Calls | 53 | Koala Calls | 36 | Koala Calls | 42 |
| Sighting / Healthy | 41 | Sighting / Healthy | 29 | Sighting / Healthy | 33 |
| Advice Given | 1 | Advice Given | 1 | Advice Given | 0 |
| Hospital Visit | 6 | Hospital Visit | 3 | Hospital Visit | 6 |
| Passed onto | 3 | Passed onto | 2 | Passed onto | 2 |
| Catch & Release | 2 | Catch & Release | 0 | Catch & Release | 0 |
| | | Unable to Locate | 1 | Other | 1 |
| Other Wildlife Calls | 73 | Other Wildlife Calls | 58 | Other Wildlife Calls | 80 |
| Bat | 2 | Bat | 1 | Bat | 1 |
| Bird | 33 | Bird | 19 | Bird | 34 |
| Echidna | 1 | Echidna | 0 | Echidna | 2 |
| Macropod | 2 | Macropod | 6 | Macropod | 6 |
| Possum / Glider | 30 | Possum / Glider | 28 | Possum / Glider | 34 |
| Reptile | 4 | Reptile | 2 | Reptile | 3 |
| Other | 1 | Other | 2 | Other | 0 |

MEET LOUIE FROM JOYNER

This cheeky fellow is Louie.

Louie was rescued by Moreton Bay Koala Rescue about a year ago after being hit by a car while crossing the road. He made a quick recovery and was soon released, only to find himself on the side of a busy road again just a few months later. This time he was rescued by Pine Rivers Koala Care, and luckily he had no injuries, and was released onto a private property in Joyner the next day.

Louie lives by his own rules. He sometimes returns to the property, but mostly he chooses to live on the side of busy roads in Joyner and Bray Park, and is still regularly spotted by locals darting across the road to his favourite tree – or his favourite lady. Our urban koalas are precious. Please slow down when you're out on the roads, especially now breeding season is here. Give Louie a wave if you see him in your travels!



CARER NEWS

MEET BRETT AND SALLY!



Hi, my name is Brett and I'm one of the Lead Carers. I have been caring for wildlife for 14 years down in the Redlands and started up here when I moved in with my partner Sally. In the past I have worked with Sea Shepherd Australia/Global and been placed on campaigns in Japan and Costa Rica. For a while I ran the wildlife ambulance with a team of volunteers in the Redlands, so animals have been a centre point of my life for over a decade. I'm now working as a chef close to home but wildlife caring will always be my passion. It all started with a kookaburra, so I have a soft spot for the Australian Icon. I hope to talk to more of you soon.

Hi there! My name is Sally, and I'm one of the Lead Carers. Brett and I are partners and started off rescuing farm animals together. Once we were at capacity, we decided to branch out into wildlife caring. Luckily for me, Brett has extensive experience so while I was thrown head first into the deep end, I had a mentor by my side every step of the way. I've had 10 years working professionally in many aspects of animal care, including zoo keeping, dog training, dog grooming, and most recently managing 70+ animals and all volunteer workers at an animal sanctuary. As a team Brett and I care for most common species of wildlife, with my personal favourite being Swamp Wallabies. I look forward to getting to know everyone better and growing a strong team of passionate carers!



WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMITS – DO YOU HAVE A COPY?

Thank you to all the carers who have responded to requests for information. If you are a registered carer with Pine Rivers Koala Care you must be able to produce the permit at any time. If you don't have a copy of the current permit, please email Brett and Sally on carer@prkoalacare.com.au to request one.

This is a timely reminder that as a carer, it is your responsibility to advise the Carer Coordinator of any wildlife you receive into care, and how many animals you are caring for at any given time. The fines for non-compliance are substantial – up to \$9,000. Our carers are so vital to our organisation (we wouldn't exist with you!) and we want to help you help us to do the right thing.

The Department of Environment and Science has started conducting audits on Wildlife Carers who hold multiple permits. If you are not a current member AND a registered carer with Pine Rivers Koala Care, and we don't know which animals you have in care, you are not covered under our permit. The DES has advised us that they will remove wildlife from your care if you are audited and cannot produce the permit.

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Koalas | 5 |
| Macropods | 8 |
| Possums | 74 |
| Birds | 26 |



NATIONAL TREE DAY | 31 JULY & 02 AUGUST 2020

SAVE THE DATE!

SCHOOLS TREE DAY **31** FRIDAY JULY 2020 | NATIONAL TREE DAY **02** SUNDAY AUG 2020

National Tree Day is coming up! At this stage we don't really know if restrictions will be completely lifted but we are hoping we can go ahead with our planned events at Rob Akers Reserve. If you're interested in joining the committee and helping on National Tree Day please let us know and we can put you in touch with Janet or Trish. Watch this space for updates!

VOLUNTEER ROLES AVAILABLE

If you've ever wanted to join the Pine Rivers Koala Care Executive Committee, you're in luck! We are searching for a new Secretary and Treasurer.

We are also looking at starting committees for things such as Habitat Care / Tree Planting, Events and Advocacy.

Natasha Barker who normally looks after our Wild Koala Day event will be reaching out to many of you over the next few weeks so we can update our volunteer list and check your availability for the various rosters.

Please email events@prkoalacare.com.au if you are interested in joining any of the committees or you want to let Tash know when you're available.



BLUE CARDS – VOLUNTEERING WITH CHILDREN



We are currently in the process of drafting a Child Safety Policy and we will publish that in due course. In the meantime, if you volunteer with children in Queensland you must now hold a blue card. Many of our fundraising and educational activities include working with children, and even though they're not that frequent, it will be our policy that all volunteers who wish to participate in events with children must have a blue card.

Apply for your blue card here:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/regulated-industries-and-licensing/blue-card/applications/apply>

If you already have a blue card, we still need to link you to our organisation. Please complete this form: <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/blue-card-employment-changes/resource/7f263d63-3bf6-417f-8f68-24f1bb15b12a>

Please send all applications to: vicepresident@prkoalacare.com.au

