



Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year has simultaneously flashed by and been a time of immense learning for me. As president for the first time, it has been a great effort to get my head around what it going on and what needs to be done. The first year of undertaking a new role is always stressful. Some periods have been difficult but other times have been exhilarating when I see what is happening in the group.

I have just finished reading a fascinating report, A Review of Rescue Roadkill, from Sydney University, that suggests that a conservative estimate estimates that Australia's wildlife carers contributed 186 million hours and \$370 million to the care of injured wildlife per year. Total Australian roadkill is 4 million, producing an estimated 560,000 marsupial pouch orphans per year. i Up to 50,000 of these are rescued, rehabilitated and released by volunteer wildlife carers. The report goes on to describe the impact of this commitment. For example, the financial input into raising one joey was approximately \$33,000, including a time input of 1,000 hours at \$31 per hour. It also categorises the kinds of grief associated with hand-rearing orphans and rehabilitating injured animals. It suggests that there are many kinds of grief, including burn-out from compassion fatigue and the mourning occasioned by the fact that we do not even know what happens to the animals we raise.

The knowledge base required to care for wildlife is built by days of initial instruction and updates and as well as years of experience. Our personal health is tested by sleepless nights and endless tasks. Reading the report made me realise how stressed we can get and how easy it is to take that stress out on those who work with us and are closest to us. Sometimes I feel that it is a miracle that we survive at all as a group. On top of what we do in Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers, we also cope with the daily stresses of our jobs and families and just plain life.

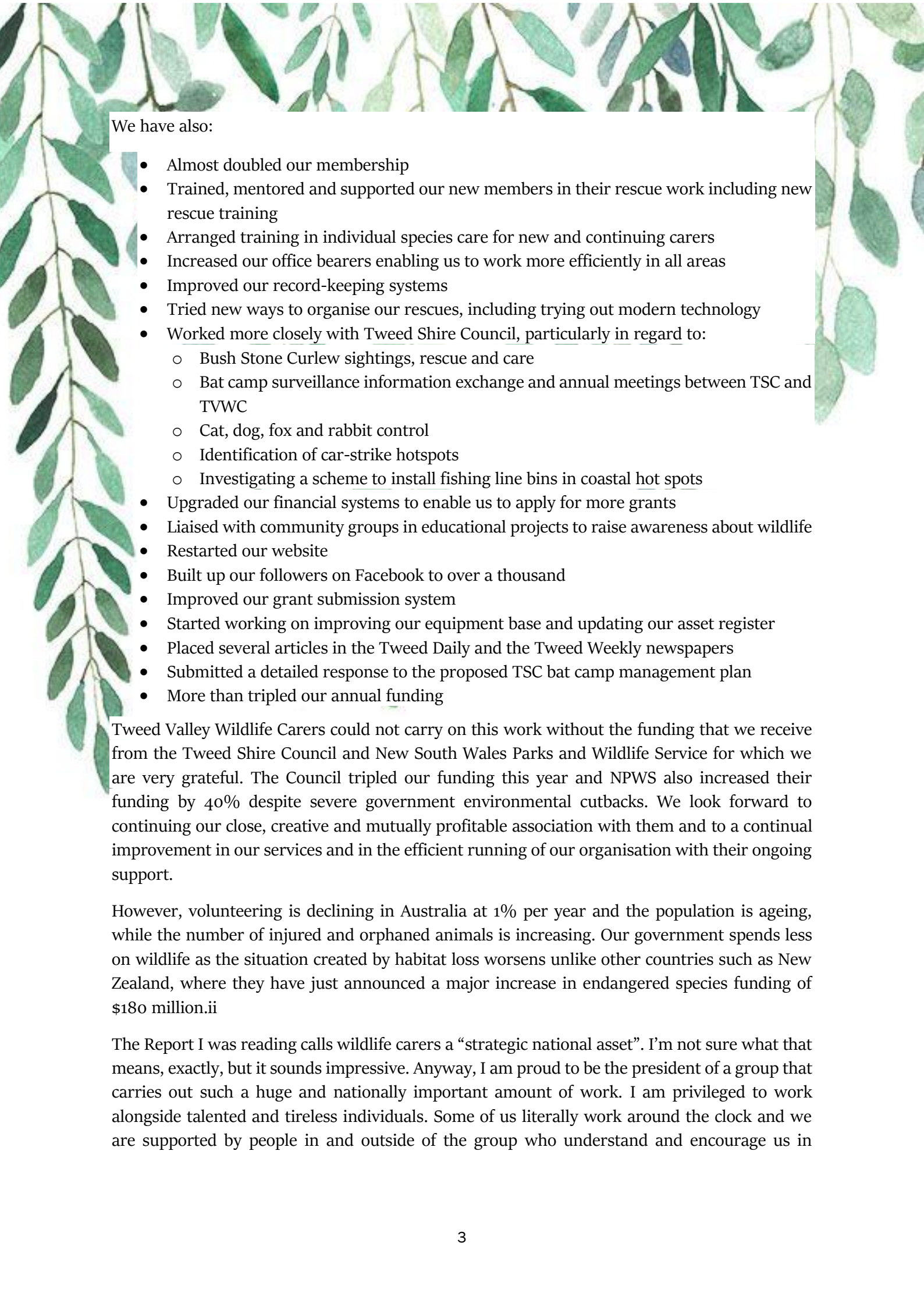
Despite all of that, our outstanding achievements in 2017 - 2018 include:

Total phone calls: 3,614

Total wildlife released, reunited or still in care: 1,020

Total wildlife died or euthanised: 1,258





We have also:

- Almost doubled our membership
- Trained, mentored and supported our new members in their rescue work including new rescue training
- Arranged training in individual species care for new and continuing carers
- Increased our office bearers enabling us to work more efficiently in all areas
- Improved our record-keeping systems
- Tried new ways to organise our rescues, including trying out modern technology
- Worked more closely with Tweed Shire Council, particularly in regard to:
 - Bush Stone Curlew sightings, rescue and care
 - Bat camp surveillance information exchange and annual meetings between TSC and TVWC
 - Cat, dog, fox and rabbit control
 - Identification of car-strike hotspots
 - Investigating a scheme to install fishing line bins in coastal hot spots
- Upgraded our financial systems to enable us to apply for more grants
- Liaised with community groups in educational projects to raise awareness about wildlife
- Restarted our website
- Built up our followers on Facebook to over a thousand
- Improved our grant submission system
- Started working on improving our equipment base and updating our asset register
- Placed several articles in the Tweed Daily and the Tweed Weekly newspapers
- Submitted a detailed response to the proposed TSC bat camp management plan
- More than tripled our annual funding

Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers could not carry on this work without the funding that we receive from the Tweed Shire Council and New South Wales Parks and Wildlife Service for which we are very grateful. The Council tripled our funding this year and NPWS also increased their funding by 40% despite severe government environmental cutbacks. We look forward to continuing our close, creative and mutually profitable association with them and to a continual improvement in our services and in the efficient running of our organisation with their ongoing support.

However, volunteering is declining in Australia at 1% per year and the population is ageing, while the number of injured and orphaned animals is increasing. Our government spends less on wildlife as the situation created by habitat loss worsens unlike other countries such as New Zealand, where they have just announced a major increase in endangered species funding of \$180 million.ⁱⁱ

The Report I was reading calls wildlife carers a “strategic national asset”. I’m not sure what that means, exactly, but it sounds impressive. Anyway, I am proud to be the president of a group that carries out such a huge and nationally important amount of work. I am privileged to work alongside talented and tireless individuals. Some of us literally work around the clock and we are supported by people in and outside of the group who understand and encourage us in

invaluable ways. Our experiences with the animals (including birds and reptiles) that we rescue, care for and raise can be magical.

An organisation like ours just doesn't happen without a great team of dedicated people and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

Firstly, to our team of hotline volunteers and their coordinator, you are truly an amazing group of people. Your dedication, commitment and patience are awesome.

To our species coordinators, mentoring less experienced carers, liaising with the hotline volunteers and wildlife facilities to facilitate the efficient placement of wildlife, developing and teaching workshops, being a shoulder to cry on without holding back or counting the cost in time spent. Our coordinators constantly juggle with rescuing, caring and all their other commitments. On behalf of all of our members, thank you for all the support you give to your species, your carers and your group.

To our group of volunteer rescuers who do the hands-on work out there getting our wildlife out of trouble and to safety. To the rest of the management committee, thank you for your continued support this past year. I know that the past year has been an extremely busy one for all of us and I am proud that we have still managed to keep the organisation afloat and grow even though we have not achieved all of our aims for the year.

I would also like to thank everyone in the group for their care and support and also those people



in the community who have raised money and donated money and equipment to us. I would also like to acknowledge our vets and CWH who work with us. Your efforts are invaluable and much appreciated. I wish everyone a happy and satisfying year ahead.

Jan Pilgrim - President

i A Review of Rescue Roadkill: who cares for the mental, physical and financial welfare of Australian wildlife carers? Bruce Englefield, Melissa Starling and Paul McGreevy. CSIRO PUBLISHING Wildlife Research, 2018, 45, 103-118

ii Australia relies on volunteers to monitor its endangered species. Matthew Webb, David Watson and Dejan Stojanovic. The Conversation. June 11, 2018 6.04am AEST

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance of accounts as at June 30, 2018 is \$13,584.72 Credit.

Assets			
St. George General Account		\$1,261.84	
St. George Public Fund Account		\$9,609.82	
Undeposited Funds		\$2,713.06	
Total Assets			\$13,584.72

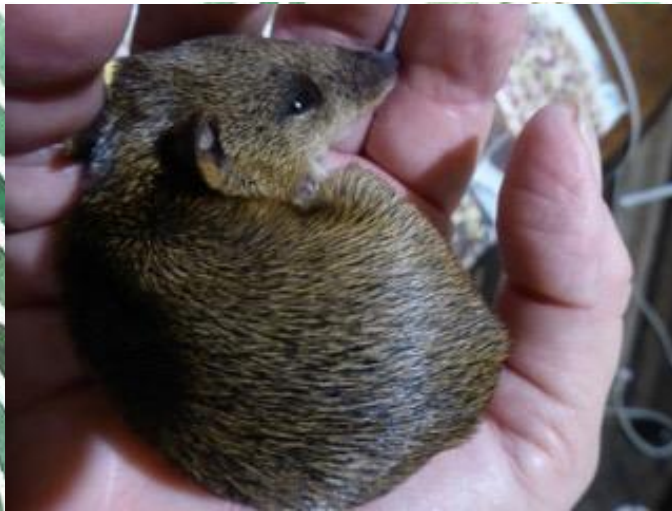
	July 2017 To June 2018			July 2016 to June 2017		
Income						
Donations						
Charity boxes	\$241.70			\$913.35		
Donations	\$7,967.97			\$6,236.08		
Animal Rescues	\$810.00			\$634.50		
Total Donations		\$9,019.67		\$7,783.93		
Membership Fees		\$1,420.00		\$724.55		
Other Income		\$227.27				
Interest		\$15.86		\$13.41		
Grants		\$15,000.00		\$6,818.18		
Total Income			\$25,682.80			\$15,340.07
Cost Of Sales						
Shop Supplies Sold		(\$35.00)		(\$117.00)		
Shop Supplies Purchased		\$5,105.36		\$2,568.05		
Total Cost Of Sales			\$5,070.36			\$2,451.05
Gross Profit			\$20,612.44			\$12,889.02
Expenses						
Administration Costs						
Fees & Renewals	\$609.04			\$155.68		
Meetings	\$656.49			\$150.00		
Postage	\$54.54			\$90.91		
Printed Stationery Supplies	\$1,113.64			\$70.90		
Total Administration Costs		\$2,433.71		\$467.49		
Animal Care Costs						
Vet Fees	\$2,117.18			\$1,769.33		
Carer Reimbursements	\$6,480.52			\$7,579.29		
Fuel Costs	\$2,179.78			\$1,263.64		
Bat Creche fees				\$879.00		
CO 2 expenses	\$569.75			\$349.80		
Total Animal Care Costs		\$11,347.23		\$11,841.06		
Sundry Expenses		\$800.00		\$1,148.64		
Boat Repairs & Maintenance		\$449.23		\$543.32		
New purchases		\$1,166.06		\$1,273.49		
Total Expenses			\$16,196.23			\$15,274.00
Operating Profit			\$4,416.21			(\$2,384.98)
Net Profit/(Loss)			\$4,416.21			(\$2,384.98)

Our records are audited by J. K. Gregor and Associates, Murwillumbah. At the time of the AGM, our audit had not been finalised.

Corrina Lever - Treasurer

SMALL MAMMALS

Thanks to Robyn for these stats, her vet skills and her determined pinkie and wounded mammal raising and care. Thanks to Corrina for her great 2ICing, rescuing and possum raising. Thanks to Garry for his great glider releasing and to Ingrid, Jenny G, Jenny W, Kate, Hayley, Elaina and all the other great rescuers and carers in the group who have helped so much this year. My training and organising have been somewhat disrupted this year while our house was being raised and renovated after the floods. I know that there are lots of new members who want to rescue, care for and soft release these species and hopefully it will be happening in the year ahead.



We still continue to have some bandicoots, mainly northern browns, and small mammals coming into care. We had two litters of orphaned bandicoots, one from a dog attack and the other from a car strike. Unfortunately, two of the first litter died of stress-related illness while the second litter was eaten by a python. A very good lesson about closing the smallest gap in an outdoor cage, even one which you think a snake could never get into. Almost three quarters of the rescued

bandicoots died before coming into care, the majority from cars and dogs. These poor animals don't stand a chance when they come up against enemies that are so much more powerful than they are.

Antechinus, Dunnarts and Melomys rounded out the other small mammals we either treated or raised.



The possums that come into care have usually been directly (loss of food resources and shelter) or indirectly impacted by loss of habitat, caused by increasing human population, increasing domestic animal population and predation, the spread of serious weed species, the use of barbed wire and loose fruit netting, the increasing number of cars on our roads and the list goes on. Add extreme weather conditions such as floods and unseasonal temperatures which change the food supplies, predation by owls and snakes, competition for territory, and we see how life for our possums is extremely difficult. All we can do is use our education programmes, community talks and other events to inform members of the public and encourage them to consider ways of minimising their negative impact on the environment.



Dermatitis continues to be a major issue for the Brushtail Possums. It can be successfully treated if the problem is not too severe, but as the dermatitis is often a secondary problem, we know that returning them to where they came from is sometimes a somewhat futile exercise. When the dermatitis is infected, usually by staphylococcus, healing can lead to scarring that makes it impossible for them to function in the wild at all. Thanks again to our dedicated Possum Carers!



Thanks to Robyn for her treatment of injured gliders and to Garry for his innovative and attentive approach to soft releases, we have had a great success rate with the gliders this year. Cat attacks still claim many glider victims. This is a tragic and totally unnecessary loss and a good reason for wildlife carers to actively support the Tweed Shire Council's cat campaign. There are almost as many glider rescues as bandicoots, but we have a much better survival rate, perhaps because they don't come up against cars, although the tendency of the general public to hang onto them as long as possible because they are so cute doesn't help at all. They are tough little fighters and respond readily to the right treatment. We are lucky to have a vet in the group which facilitates our ability to give them the rehydration and prophylactic antibiotic treatment that can be lifesaving.



Many thanks to Jenny, our talented and experienced echidna carer, for all her hard work. Her love of echidnas and her time at CWH has helped immensely. Our success rate with the echidnas is an 80% return to the wild this year, which is amazing. Echidnas are most often injured by car hits as not much else can hurt them apart from the occasional dog. If they are not euthanised due to beak fracture, or debilitated beyond rehabilitation by coccidiosis, Jenny seems to be able to get them back into the wild.

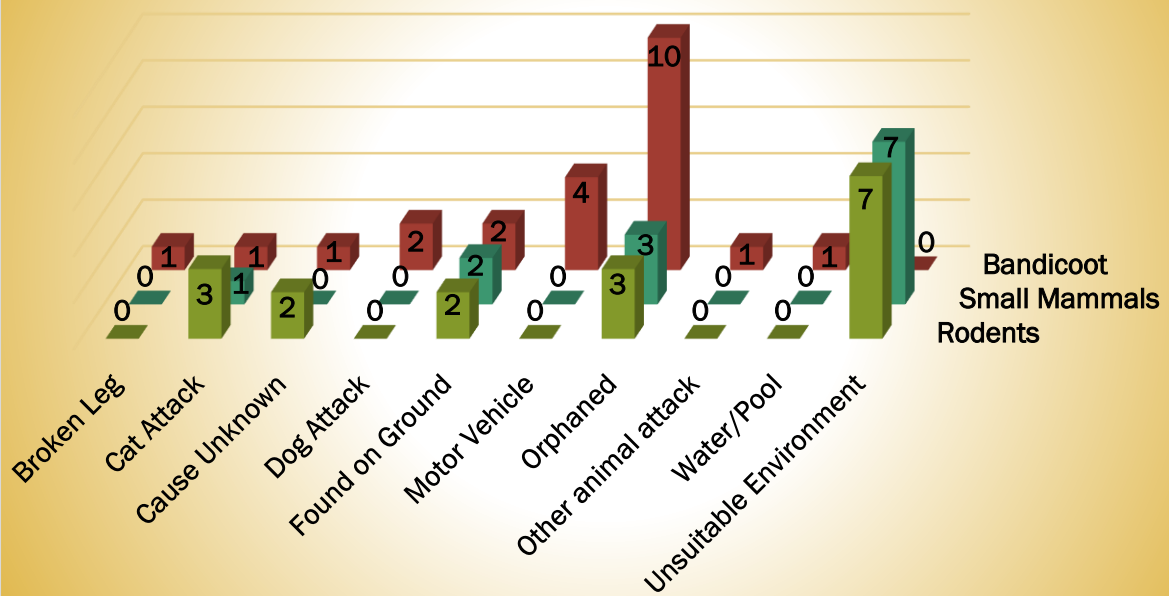


She was also successful in a grant application this year so we now have an outside enclosure to aid in their care.

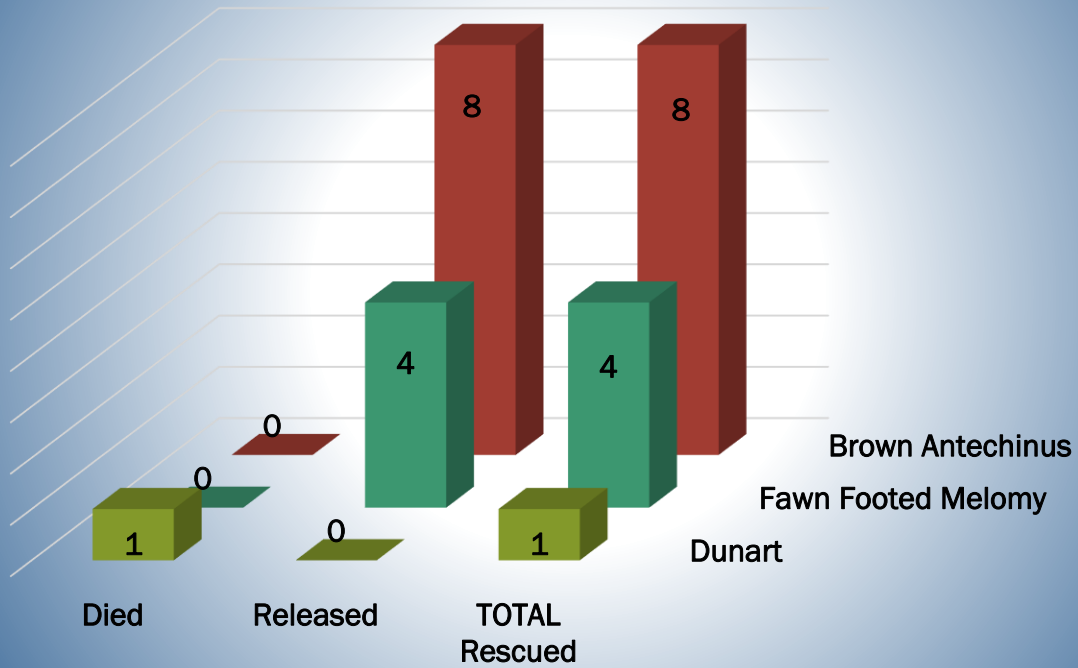
We have not had any platypus this year.

Jan Pilgrim

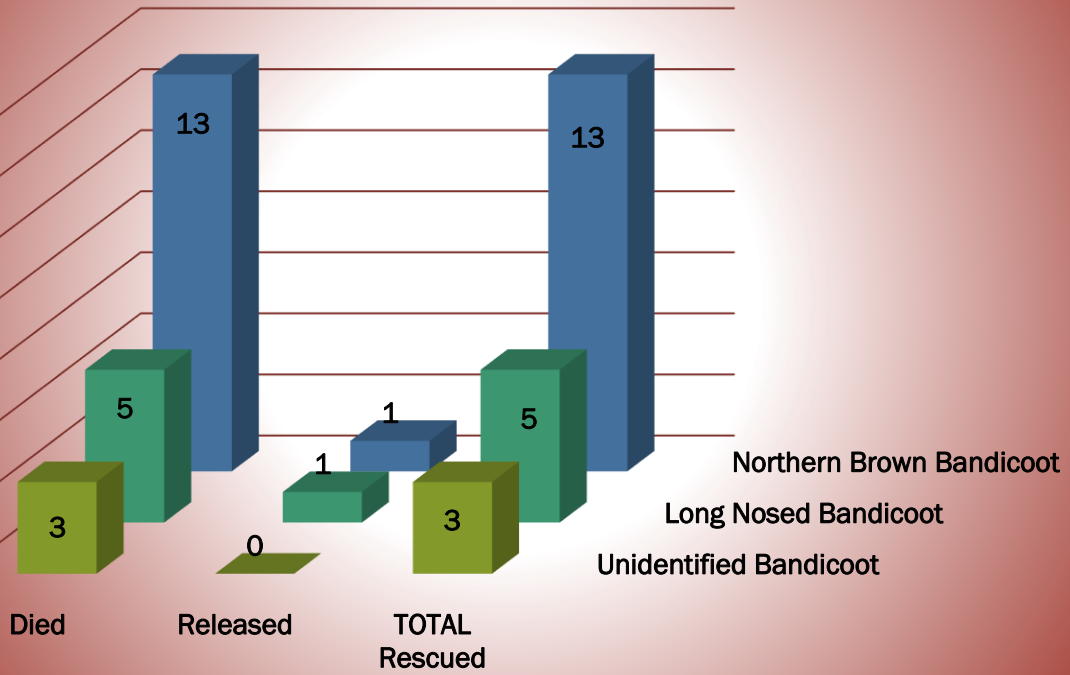
2017-18 Reasons for Small Mammal Rescues



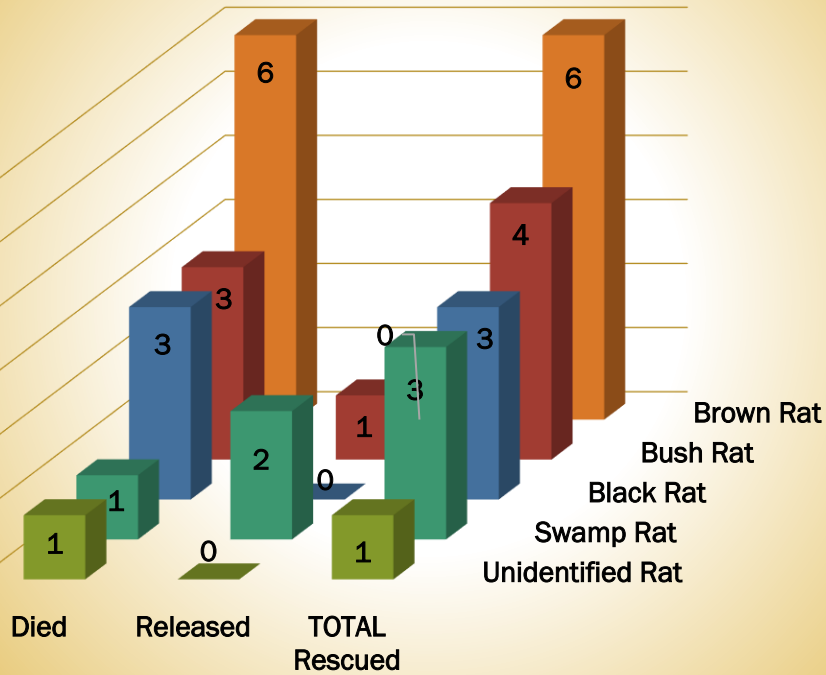
2017-18 Small Mammal Rescues

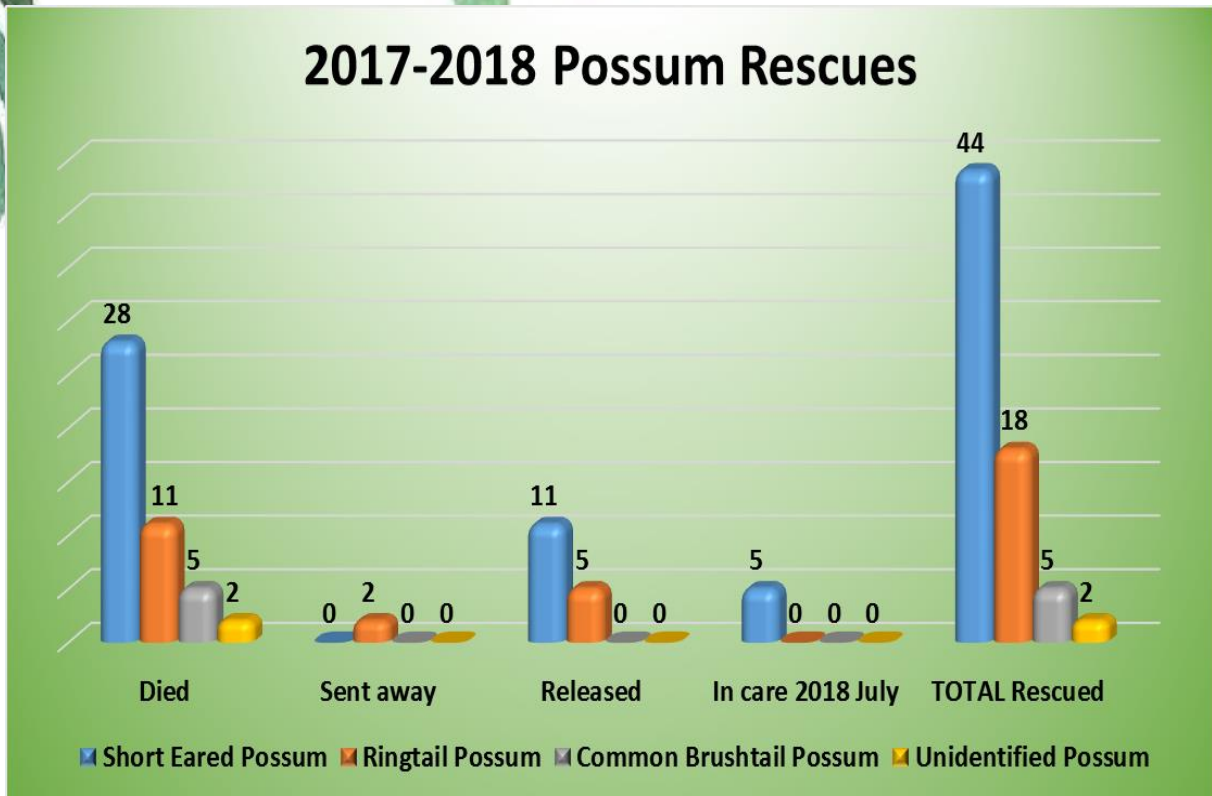
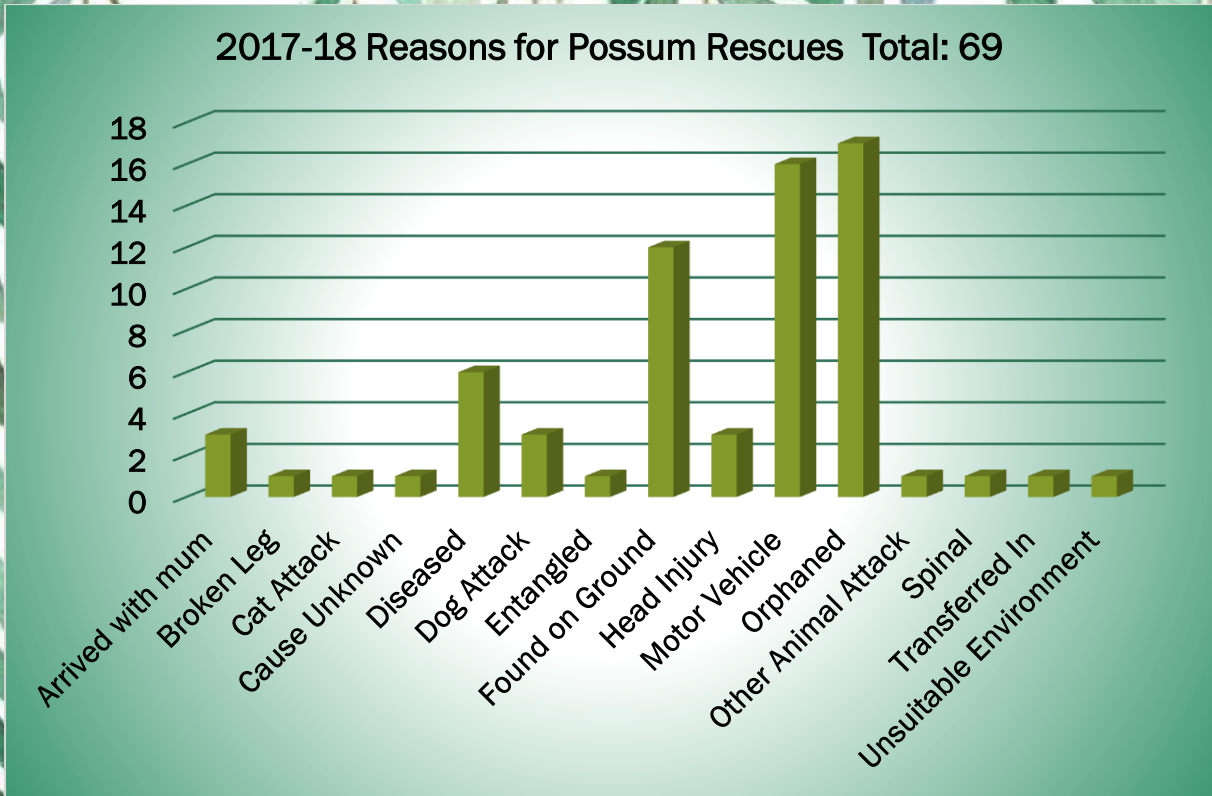


2017-18 Bandicoot Rescues

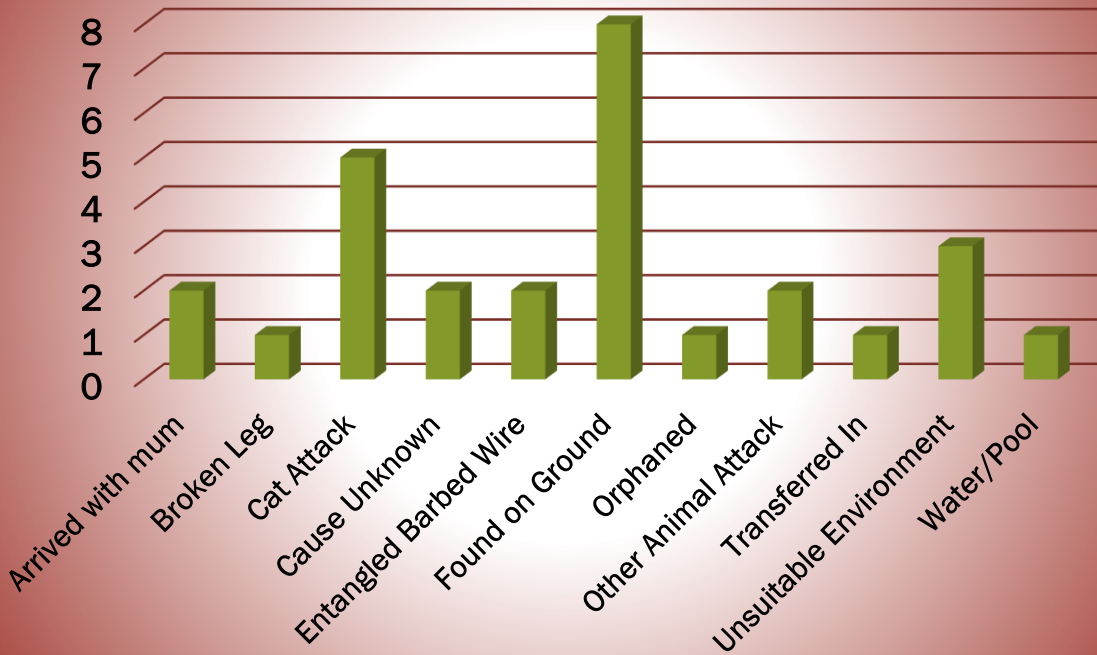


2017-18 Rodent Rescues



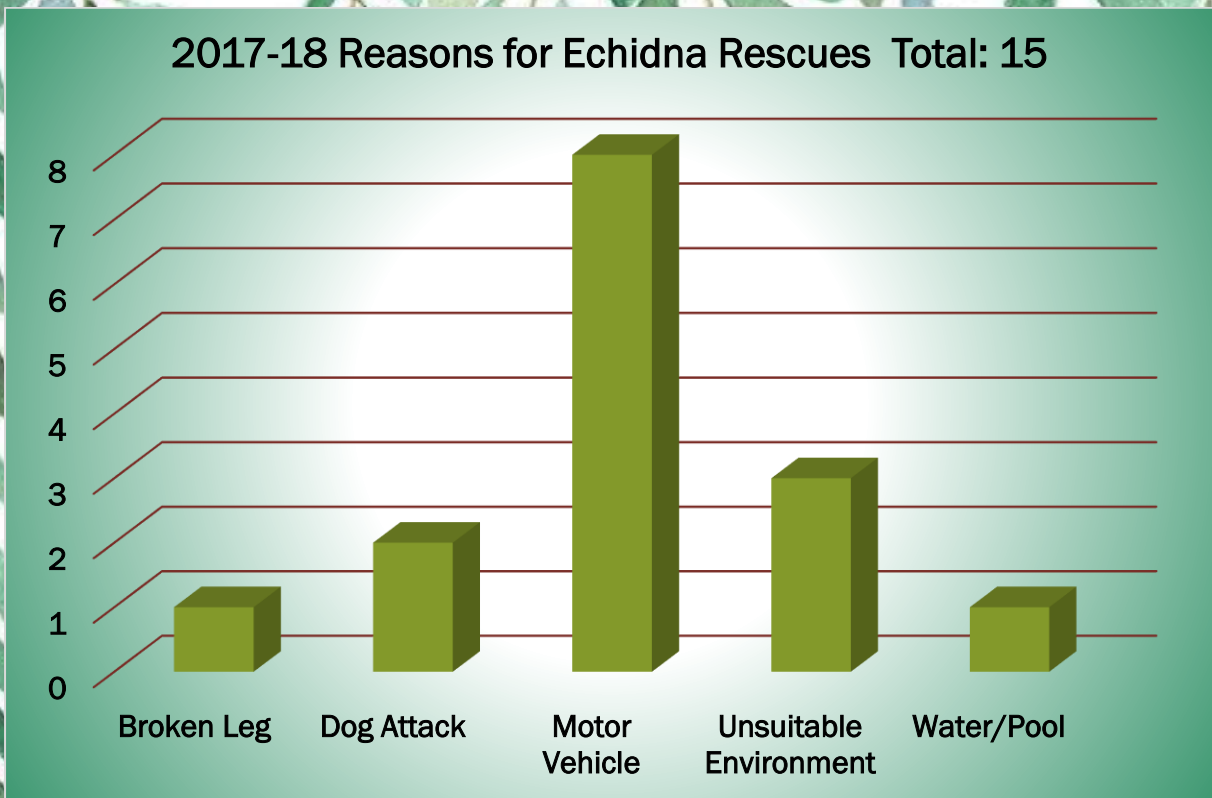


2017-18 Reasons for Glider Rescue Total: 28



2017 - 2018 Glider Rescues





REPTILE REPORT

Thanks to all the reptile rescuers and carers for their fine efforts in keeping the reptiles safe. Big thanks to Sharyn for taking a heat box and snake into care, and Ron for the extra snake rescuing that he does on top of everything else for the group – much appreciated Ron.

A call out to any TVWC members that are interested in coming on board with rescuing and caring for reptiles ... If you're not comfortable handling snakes, maybe lizards are more your thing. Please contact me (Cameron) to discuss.

Thanks to Sue J for support in holding a few lost pet snakes that have been found. These snakes can sometimes be in care for a while due to the fact it becomes a National Parks and Wildlife Service issue and trying to find new homes doesn't happen overnight.

I'm not sure why, but Bilambil Heights seems to be popular for finding these pet snakes (lucky Robert lives up there!). A few have been found in the area. One lucky owner managed to get one of her diamond pythons back, thanks to Robert and a caring resident worried about his 'visitor', but there're still two missing from her home.

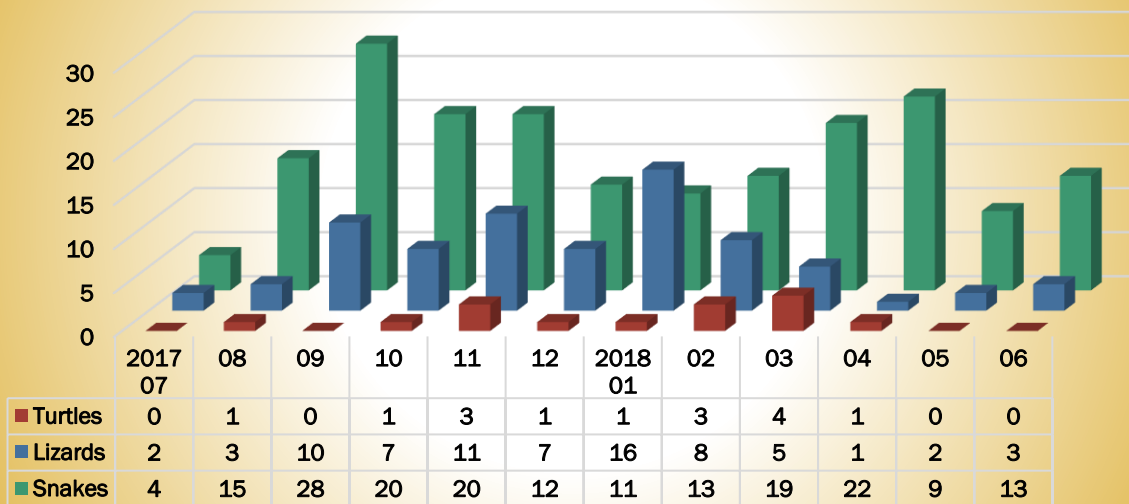
Once again, thanks everyone for your help, and good luck for the next year ahead.







Reptile Rescues in 2017-18



Turtles - 15 in total

Eastern Saw Shelled = 7
Eastern Long Necked = 4

Lizards - 75 in total

Eastern Water Dragons = 48
Blue Tongues = 10

Snakes - 186 in total

Carpet Pythons = 108
Brown Tree Snake = 23
Green Tree Python = 16
Eastern Brown Snake = 14

Total Reptiles rescued for the year = 276 with 188 alive, 88 died/ euthanised

Cameron Harris

BIRD REPORT

The Bird section of any wildlife group is usually the busiest, the one most fraught with challenges, and the area where statistics indicate most attention is focussed with 1,663 birds rescued, transported into vets or taken in care this financial year. This year has been no different with large numbers of varying species that are injured, orphaned or misplaced.

Many baby birds came in, some needing to be fed every 30 minutes until self-feeding. A very time-consuming part of the year indeed.

There are so many species of bird life, each requiring an exact and specific food type. All bird food must be fresh and readily available, on-call to any carer who takes a bird into care. Sourcing of natural bird food is an ongoing and a timely issue for carers.

There have been some major achievements this year concerning the endangered Bush Stone Curlews living and breeding in the Tweed Coastal Heath. Corrina and I have liaised with Tweed Shire Council and professional specialists. Dr Greg Clancy (Ecologist and Guide) and David Charley (Fauna monitoring, Threatened Species management, and Environment Assessment). After successful incubation of 2 eggs, and 6 months of caring by Corrina, the Curlew chicks were leg flagged and DNA tested. After many hours of observation and research, a suitable release site was found at Pottsville. Three nights were spent in a tent with the Curlews in an enclosure so they could be acclimatised and then released into a congregating Curlew



colony. It was a huge success with the two new Curlews being accepted and integrating well into the new environment. Corrina and I have worked towards and recognised the success of this landmark achievement.

This year saw four swan signets come into care. Luckily not all at once.

One pair late last year, the second pair earlier on this year.

Even with 2 acres of lawn, each pair consumed \$800 in lettuce each time along with other food sources. Watching them progress was an experience that I will treasure, culminating with their release at Crams farm. Once released, a local carer of the area, Jane P, checked



daily on their progress. With the help of kayakers on the dam, we were able to monitor their progress with great success. Recently, one of the original parents of the young was mauled by 2 dogs and passed away. A very traumatic day for the members of the public who responded to the swan's rescue.

We also had some sad news with the mysterious death of over 20 Galahs that we know of around the Kingscliff/Chinderah area. After transporting the bodies to CWH (thanks, Ron) and contacting OE&H - NP&W numerous testing was carried out for diseases/viruses and also toxicology testing for pesticides. All came back with a negative result. There was also a recent spate of Corella deaths around Bilambil; CWH reported it was due to a Mega Bacteria.

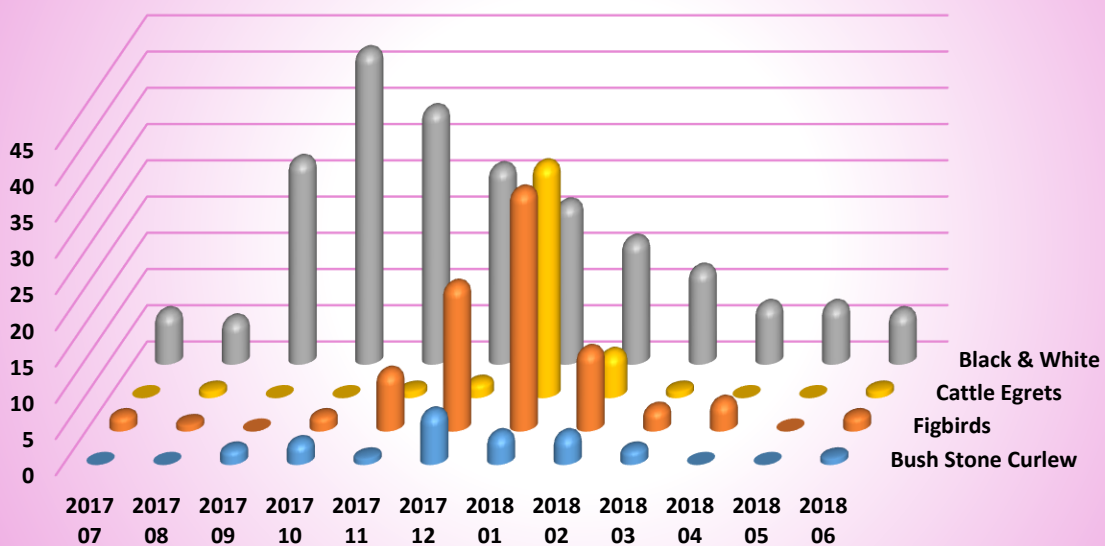


Thanks go to all the bird carers - from the start, the phonies, the rescue and transport people, the Vets that assess. Special thanks to Corrina for her untiring commitment to the cause, without her constant support my job would be impossible; Mary G who never leaves an injured bird to suffer; Sarah J who never said no; Nat A for being by my side; Myrelle

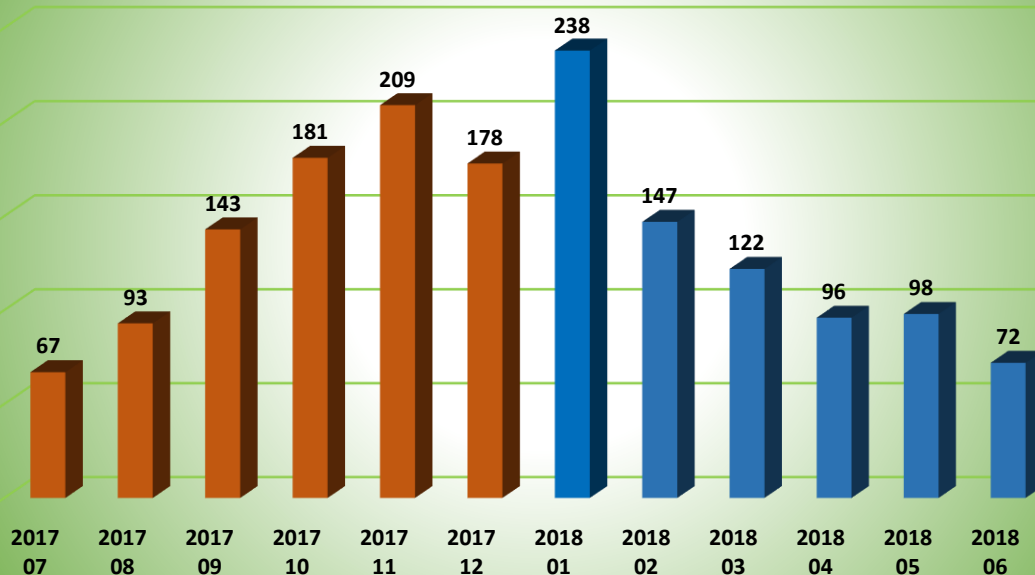
H for her amazing sense and gorgeous housing facilities; Julie F, our tiny bird specialist; Hayley F for taking on so many Lorikeets; Emma B who stepped up and is a wonderful new carer; Jo C who put her hand up to take on the mass of Figbirds; Jan P who pulls it all together.

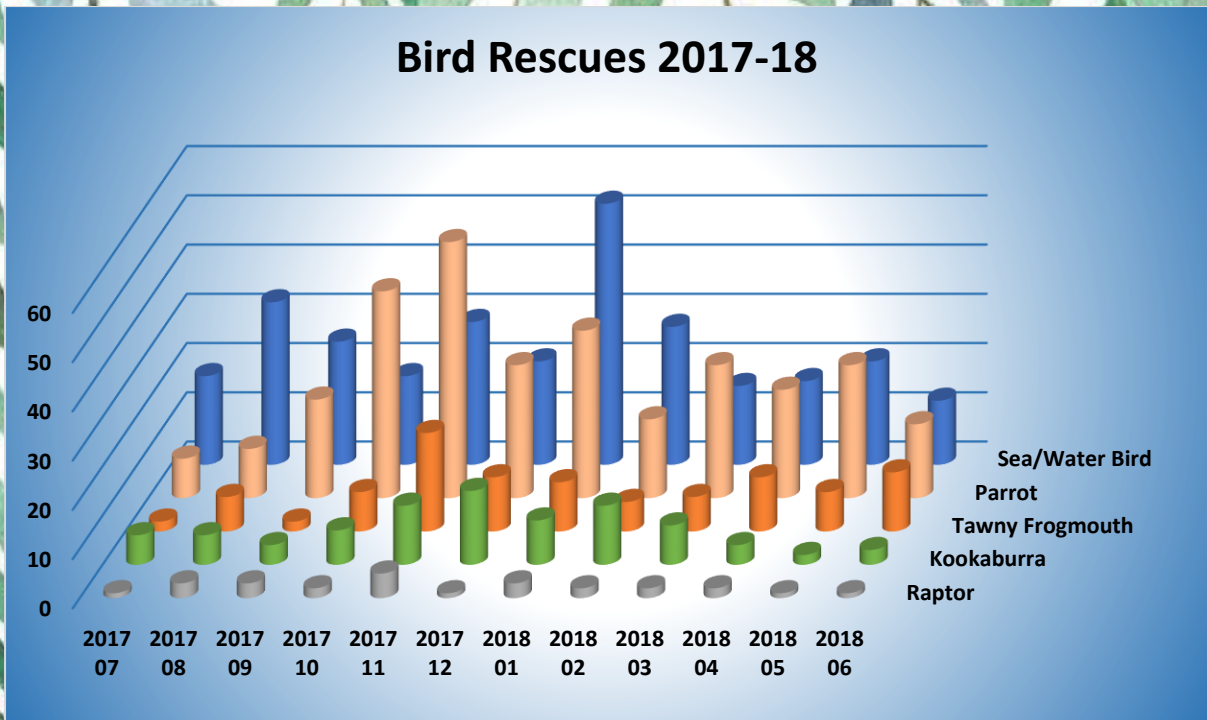
Michelle Phillips

Seasonal Rescues of Bird Breeds



Bird Rescues 2017-18 Total 1644





BAT REPORT

This year, as far as bats go, we saw a constant stream of flying fox rescues, mainly caught on barb wire.

A small number of baby flying foxes were taken into care and finally sent down for creching at Northern Rivers.

This last year, once again, saw many groups throughout NSW and QLD coping with heat stress incidents and somehow, we were once again spared. However, we did assist Northern Rivers in the caring of some of their own.

A number of micro bats did come into care this year. Many over the warmer months due to collisions with ceiling fans.

Species wise, the most common rescues were for black flying foxes.

We have 12 vaccinated and active rescuers to assist with callouts and, at times, that doesn't seem to be enough.

Most of our rescuers are situated in the Murwillumbah area and, in the near future, the possibility of having a few more members interested in assisting in the Tweed Heads, Pottsville, Kingscliff area would be a great asset.

I would like to thank all those members who have made my job that bit easier in going out to rescues and assisting with transporting. With a big thank you to Daen who, 365 days a year, cares for the flying foxes in our rehab cage, Myrelle who assisted at baby season caring for babies and juveniles, and Julie for her continuous work with our microbats.

Anyone interested in the care and rescuing of flying foxes, or who would like to come out on a rescue to see what's involved, please feel free to make contact with me.



Goulds Long-Eared Bat: Came into care because of colliding with a ceiling fan. No breaks, soft tissue damage. Returned to place found after a few days of recovery.

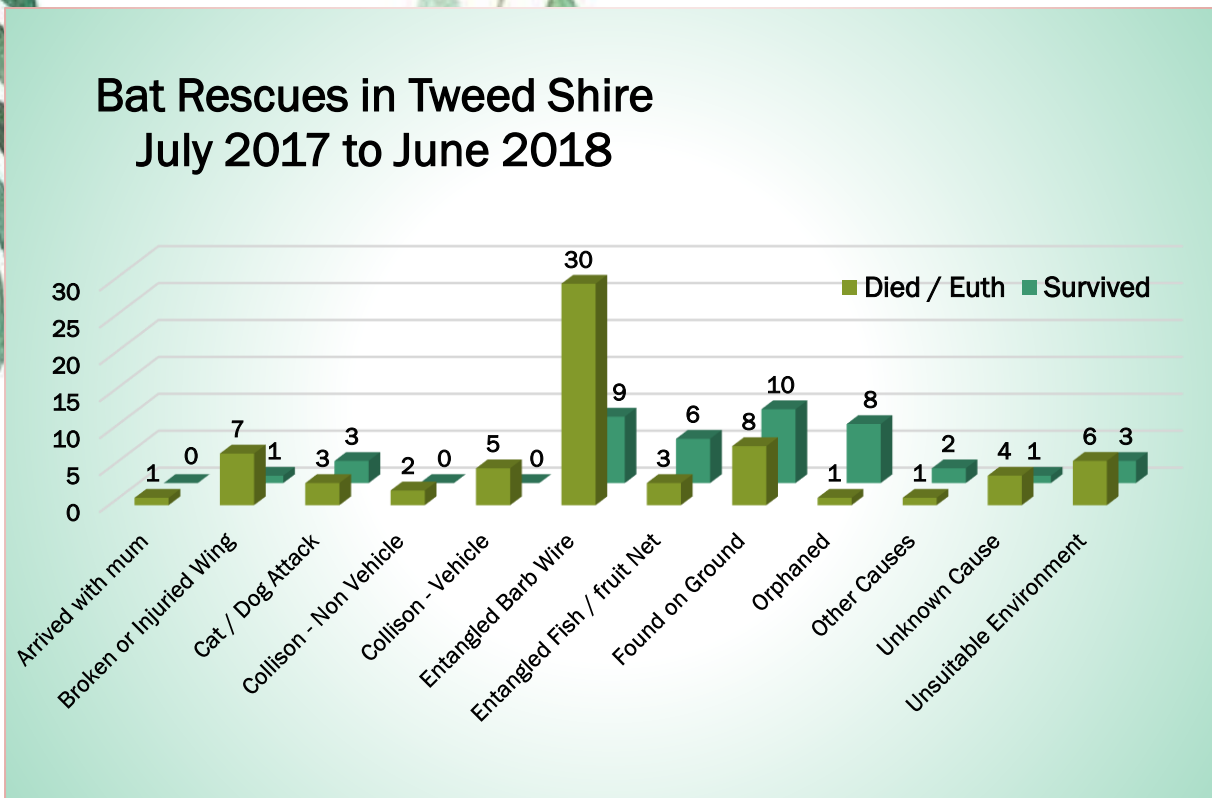
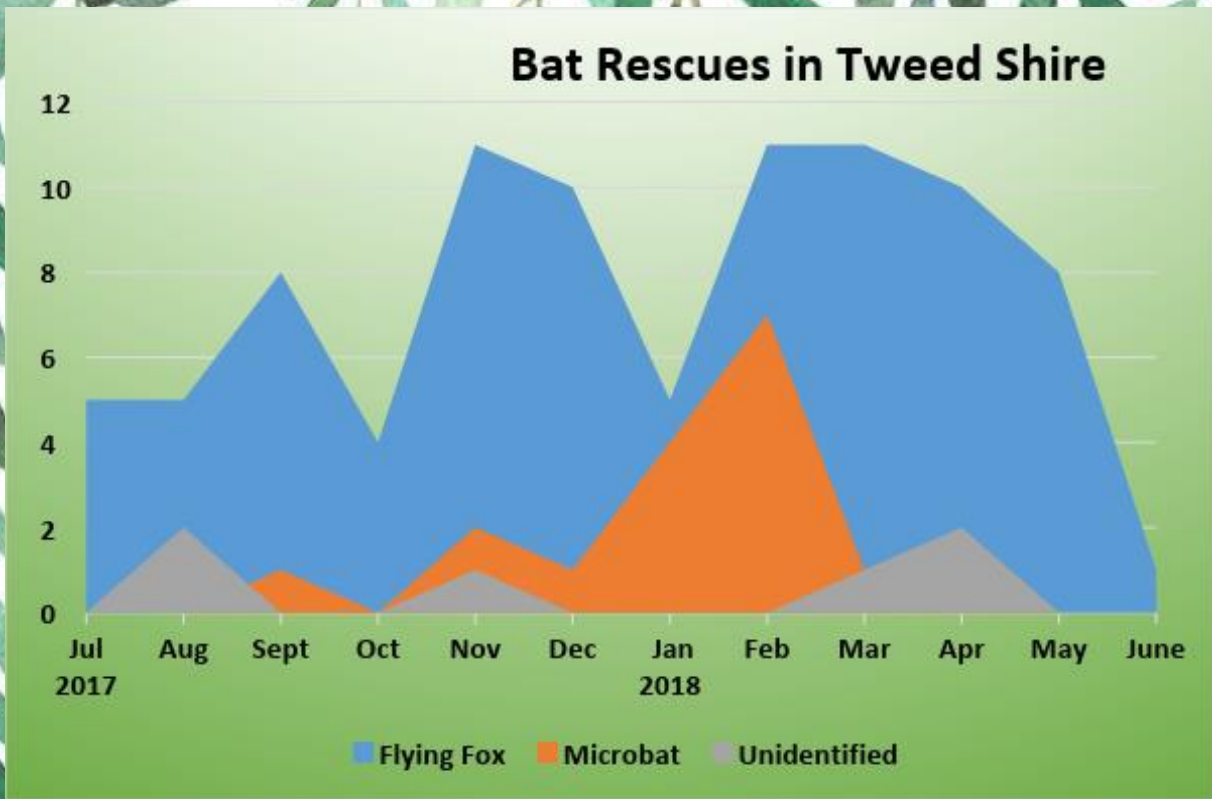
Found in sclerophyll forests and woodlands. Roosts in tree hollows of old eucalypts. Sometimes found under the bark on trees and in old nests of birds. In colonies of up to 25. Flies close to the ground when hunting flying insects. Hibernates in stretches of up to 11 days at a time over winter.

Eastern Horseshoe Bat: Found on the ground. No obvious injuries. Died not long after coming into care.

Found in caves, cracks in rocks, old mines and tunnels and sometimes under buildings. Up to 50 bats roost together in a colony hanging from the ceiling. Hibernates during cold months. Flies close to the ground or foliage to catch their prey and carry it to special feeding roosts. Feeds on flying and non-flying insects and spiders.



Corrina Lever



Flying Fox

89

Microbats

17

Unidentified

6

(these figures and the charts do NOT include the Casino Flying foxes that were taken care of by TVWC)

RESCUE REPORT

Another good year!

Due to an influx of both new and 'old' members putting their hands up for rescue and transport this year, it is definitely making it easier for everyone.

We have been doing more relays this year between Murwillumbah and Currumbin Wildlife Hospital than previously. Because people haven't had to drive so far, they are giving it a go.

I reckon we can do the same on the coast road more often, making things easier for everyone.

Later in 2018, we will be doing boat trips showing where we find pelicans and other seabirds. We need to find interested members that may be keen to take over from me and Mary when our sea legs (eventually) give up. This is a job where you have to go and look, not always waiting on phone calls.

I am very proud of you all. We are working well together. The good times outweigh the not so good.

LUV YA ALL, Ron Potter - I hope you enjoy pics of earlier days of rescue (and release).



Ron Potter





MACROPOD REPORT

Another big year with macropods. Many call outs to adults hit by cars with some horrific injuries. Very rarely do we get a call from the member of the public who actually hit the animal. I do wonder how anyone could just leave these poor creatures to suffer. This year, we have become aware of the shift of animal species. Pockets of kangaroos appearing in select parts of the Tweed Shire and the appearance of Red Neck Wallabies in suburbia, being pushed out of rural areas into residential locations. Both these issues bring with them challenges in our methods of capture and rescue.

Our carers have had their hands full with the number of joeys coming into care this year. Not all survived, but every viable animal is given a chance.

A total of 18 joeys came into care: a mixture of swamp wallabies, red neck wallabies, red neck pademelons, eastern grey and red kangaroos. This year, our carers were privileged to care for 2 red kangaroos. Each joey was found on the side of the road, standing by their dead mother before being picked up by members of the public from the Tweed Shire.

When receiving animals from out of their home range, decisions about their initial care and up-to-release point bring with them moral dilemmas which are difficult for all.

Why do we make the effort to find a release site? There are only 2 options when animals come into care and they are not endemic to the Tweed Shire. The first is to find a release site in a location where they are found in the wild and the second is to euthanise.

Outside of the Tweed Shire, many areas of NSW are in drought. Kangaroos are not only being hit by cars eating grass on the edge of roads but are being shot by farmers in the effort to save what's left of pasture for cattle and sheep. Are we doing the right thing sending these animals out there, knowing their chances of survival past their first year of release is so slim? Costs incurred to the end carer include \$400 per month for just the lucerne. 20 kilos of milk formulae costs \$290, macropod pellets are extras, to name a few. One of the red kangaroo joeys has already made the trip to Dubbo (yes, Dubbo, the closest carer willing to take on another two) and is now one of approx. 20 joeys in care at the release site. In our group, we are fortunate that the group covers our milk costs and that, even in drought, we have grass. Because two members of the public cared enough to stop and pick these joeys up, and the end carer cares enough to give them a chance to be returned to the wild, we make the effort to care for the joey until we are satisfied there are no medical issues and they have reached the optimum weight for the new carer at the release site.

Jane P has made the road trip with the first one and Nadine M is soon to make the second.



Jane's red kangaroo joey and red neck joey made their debut in the local paper.

Realising how lucky we really are living in the Tweed and having financial support from our group, some of our carers are donating funds to be sent down with Nadine to be given to the end carer to aid them with their food purchases. Should anyone else wish to contribute, please feel free to contact me.

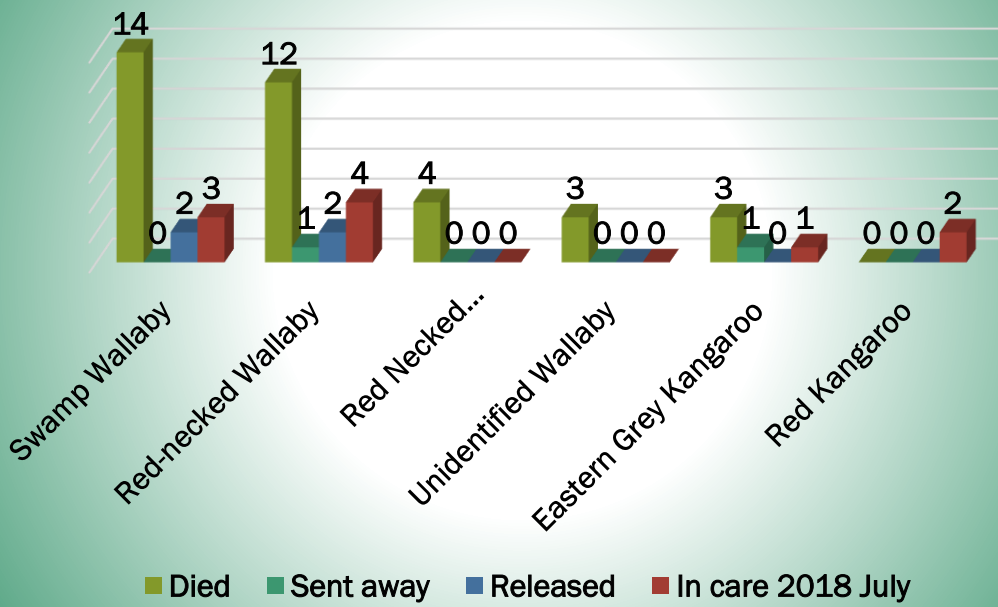


My extreme thanks to my lovely carers (Jenny, Nadine, Robyn and Jane) who willingly give up their sleep to care for these joeys around the clock, and thank you to my back-up team Robert, Ron and Max for your continued support.

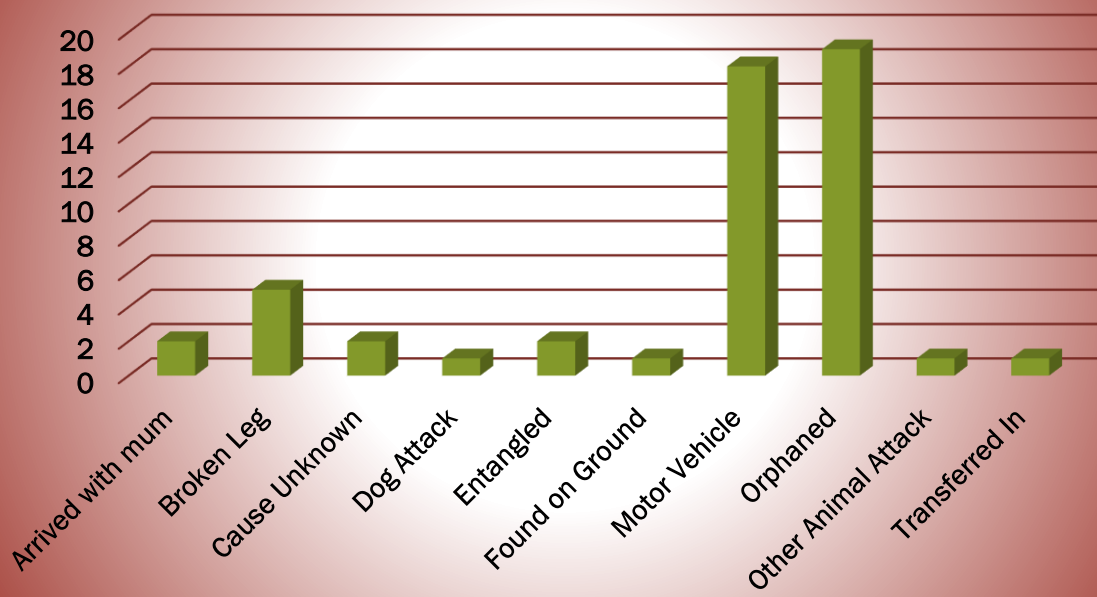


Corrina Lever

2017-18 Macropod Rescues



2017-18 Reasons for Macropod Rescues Total: 52





TRAINING REPORT

With our new president Jan Pilgrim at the helm, many changes have been happening at TVWC, some visible and some not so visible to the public and members. One big change has been the re-structuring of the orientation training for new members.

From February 2018, the new-member training has been divided into two separate days which has enabled new members to be fully informed and make a committed decision before joining the ranks of TVWC. The new-member training now includes orientation on day 1 (half-day workshop) enabling new members to explore the functioning of the TVWC organisation, its legalities, how TVWC makes a difference to the welfare of the wildlife in the Tweed and where they can fit into TVWC. Then on day 2, a full-day workshop is devoted to rescue and transport training, with an introduction to bird capturing, reptile rescue, marsupial & small mammal rescue, and basic bird rescue. With this amount of time dedicated to Rescue and Transport, we are aiming at getting our newest members fighting fit and equipped to tackle their first transports and know what is expected of them once they start rescuing. So far, the new training structure has been a great success with a large proportion of new members taking up transport duties immediately.

Keeping members up to date with workshops being offered around the area has been a full-time job, with a combined schedule being sent out regularly including workshops from TVWC, Wildcare, Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, Northern Rivers WIRES, Bats Qld, Australian Seabird Rescue and Friends of the Koala. With so much knowledge and experience being offered by TVWC and so many of our sister organisations, it's no wonder we have such well-trained rescuers and carers in our ranks.

TVWC's most recent training offered was a First Aid and Overnight Care workshop held in the beautiful Caldera of Mount Warning. It was well attended with rescuers learning how best to support injured wildlife overnight when the need arises because they have been rescued outside of Vet hours. It is skills like these that have become more and more necessary when wildlife is injured, especially on our roads during the hours of dusk to dawn.

Keeping member training up to date is not only a requirement of TVWC's Licence to Rehabilitate Wildlife, but it is also an obligation of any dedicated carer to ensure they are doing their best for the wildlife that is entrusted into their hands.

*“The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill;
the willingness to learn is a choice.” Brian Herbert*

Robyn Gommers

PHONE REPORT

August 2017 took off with a bang. Two days into my new role as phone coordinator, my phone and email were running hot. With no August phone roster, 'phonies' requesting days off, and only a faithful band of six phonies to man the hotline, it was not long before I was becoming overwhelmed.

Luckily, with the help of veteran 'phonie' Jo L, with lots of advice, wisdom to share and her organising ability, we (or should I say, Jo) managed to get the roster sorted.

But, just as I was getting my foothold on the job, Jo took a step back and elected to retire from the phones in November. Her help and friendly advice was sorely missed.

Technology became my new 2IC with the use of Dropbox, Email and the introduction of the App 'Viber' to assist in communication, and the speed of rescuing our injured wildlife was dramatically increased.

The months of October through March were especially busy for the hotline, with an average of over 400 calls a month. But by October, we had increased our phonie numbers to 9, and by March, our phonie numbers had reached an all-time high of 12 with shift times being slashed from full days to half-day shifts.



People come and go throughout the year, with life and family commitments ever changing, but with new members being trained in how to manage the hotline and the support our team of phonies offer each other in good times and in times of need, it has been a pleasure to be a member of the phonie team. The comradery within the phonies has developed and their willingness not only to man the hotline but to help with rescues and even find time to do caring as well, makes their contribution to TVWC and the welfare of our wildlife priceless to say the least. They make the role of being the phone coordinator so much easier.

Robyn Gommers

FUNDRAISING REPORT

2017/2018 has been quite a successful year in terms of fundraising. We have participated in several community events where we have received very generous donations such as Kings St Vet Open Day, Tropical Fruit World 35th Birthday Celebrations, World Environment Day and Tweed Shire Council's Love Pets Love Wildlife day. These events not only have raised funds and awareness of what we do but are also a great opportunity for members to catch up.

Everyone is welcome to come along to these days – help out on the stall, help set-up or pack-up or just come for moral support.

We have been successful this year in applying for a grant to build a new outdoor echidna enclosure and for new echidna hospital tubs. We also won the Grill'd Community Matters fund and received some gift vouchers from Bunnings. We are in the process of applying for donations from the new "Return & Earn" recycling stations.

Jan has created a new, very handy document that helps when filling in grant applications. It has all the information on it that you may possibly need, and makes the process a lot easier. If you'd like to apply for a grant, please feel free to talk to the committee.

We've also tried some new things this year like selling baked goods and having raffles. Some might ask why?? Well, I say, why not?? Not everyone likes to talk to people, but everyone wants to help. And, if some people can help by providing other services, I say, let them! If it helps raise money and doesn't hurt anyone, what's the problem? It's time to start thinking outside the box and doing things differently. If anyone has any new ideas for fundraising, please speak up.

Fundraising for the group is not a one-person job, it's a group thing. It takes many people to set-up stalls, to write grants, to do community talks, to move around the donation boxes, to wear costumes and walk around events, to write thank-you notes, to advertise on websites and Facebook. There have been lots of helpers this year, so thank you to every one of you who have helped us raise money!





- Bunnings \$200 gift cards
- Bunnings \$200 gift cards
- Grill'd \$300
- Kings St Vet Open Day \$700+
- World Environment Day \$840+
- Library talk donation \$50
- Donation boxes

Jenny Weston

FACEBOOK REPORT

Our Facebook page is increasing in followers every week. We currently have over 1,670 followers who comment and share our posts. And luckily, we have not seen a drop in our Facebook followers due to the Facebook privacy scandal. Facebook is predominantly a younger person's medium and is definitely the way to connect to the wider community these days. I try to post things that are of relevance to our group, whether it's an event we will be at or a company who is supporting/donating to us, or a rescue we have done or animals that may need particular help. We have seen several posts go viral this year culminating in widespread media attention – posts such as the galahs that were dead in Kingscliff, the turtle nests, the nesting curlews and the echidna road kills. These posts, although very upsetting and distressing, have brought awareness to our group and what we do but have also encouraged more donations and funding. If you would like something posted on Facebook, please forward photos and stories to the Facebook editor. Posts need photos to get attention. We also get a lot of people trying to contact us through Facebook instead of ringing our hotline, even with the phone number being one of the first things you see on our page.

Hopefully, we can keep increasing our public profile so that people know to call us as time is sometimes crucial.

Jenny Weston



NWC REPORT

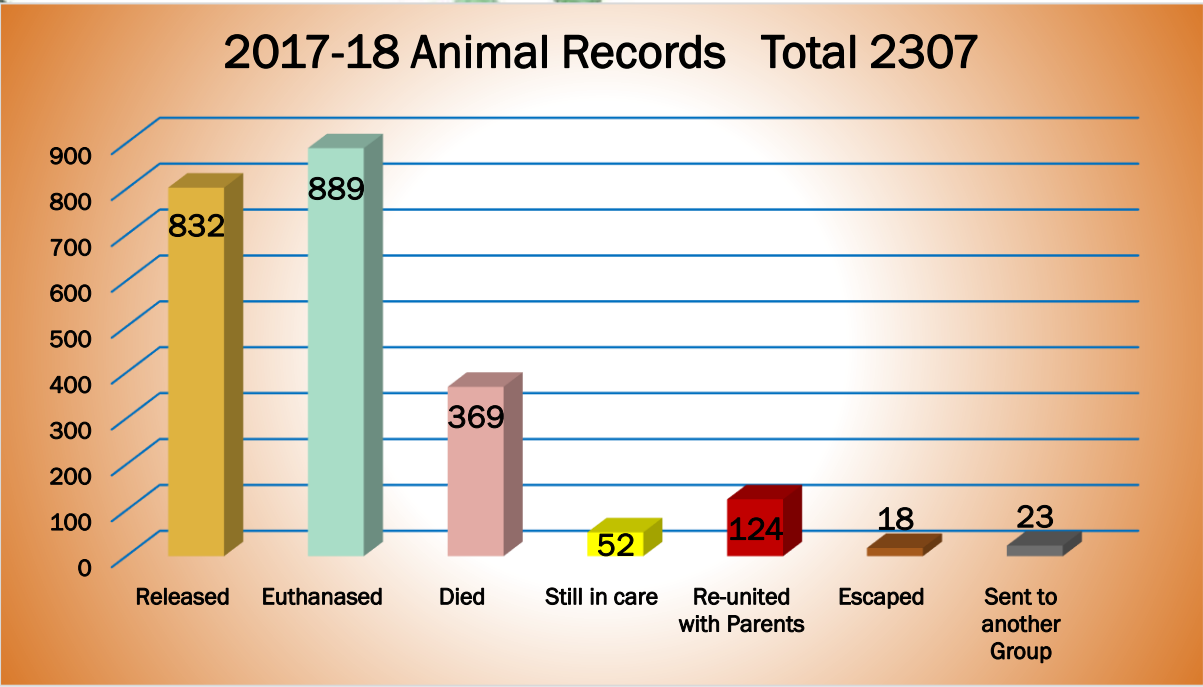
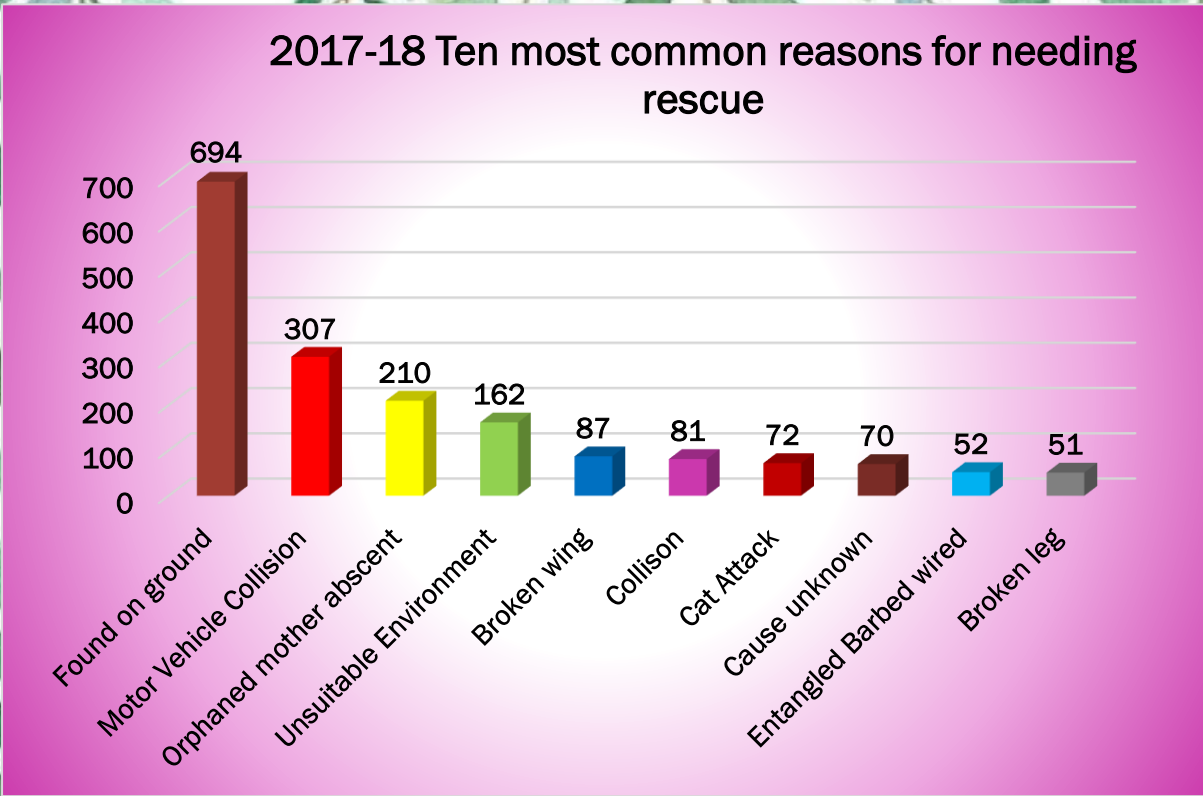
This is my first year of being the Tweed Valley Wildlife Carer's representative for the NSW Wildlife Council (NWC), and I must admit I did find it quite daunting. Every three months, I make my way to Sydney to attend the NWC meetings, and on a daily basis, I receive many emails from them. My job as the representative is to pass on the emails that are applicable to our group to the committee and to report back to our group about what happened at the meetings. Many things have been discussed at these meetings and you can see all the information on the NWC website or ask a committee member for a copy of the minutes from each meeting. In brief, discussions were held regarding road wildlife hazards, grief counselling options for carers, ongoing insurance claims, media reports on Victorian wildlife legislations, NWC rehabilitator grants, IFAW app, rogue operators, wombat mange, group boundaries and many other interesting topics. The main business that the NWC has been pre-occupied with this year is the Updated Macropod Code of Practice and the Koala Strategy & Updated Codes of Practice. Both documents have been finalised. The biodiversity reform process is the next bit of business the NWC will be tackling.



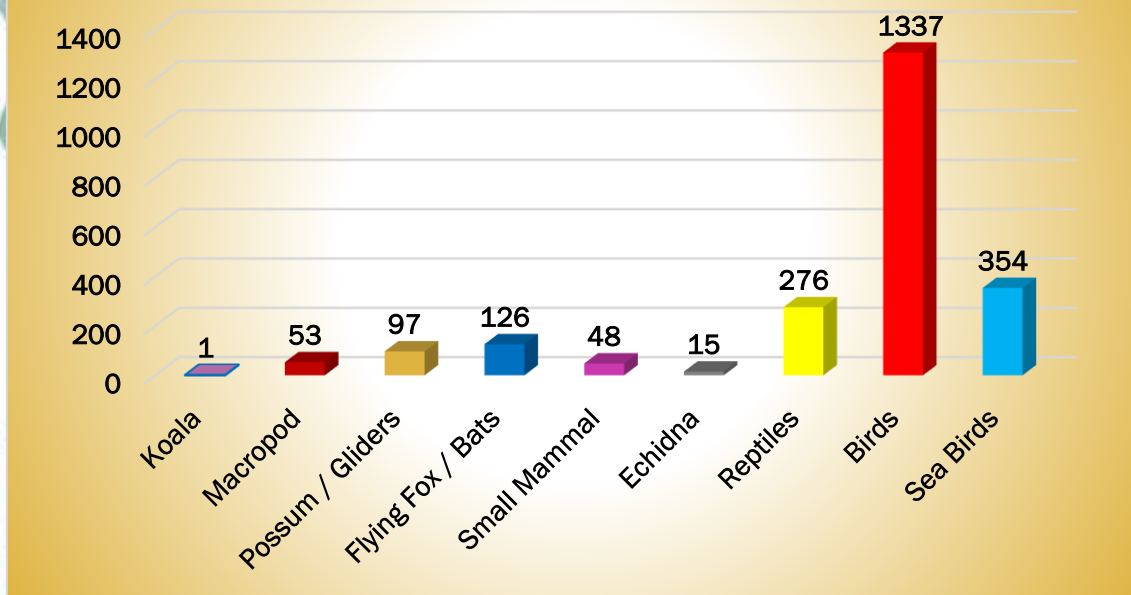
Jenny Weston

RECORDS REPORT

This current year, we have Robyn G to thank for her innovative work on the records in Wildman, creating the 'Rescuer Carer' so that all rescues are now documented in the system, including 'dead', 'euthanised', 'left & observed' and 'disappeared before rescue' animals. This has increased our numbers in Wildman Animal Records from about 800 last year to 2,500 this year! Yes, this is some increase, which accurately reflects the number of animals that are handled by the group and work that we do. Robyn has tirelessly worked to add all these extra records since last July. The reporting system is working a lot better now that the database has fewer gaps and is finally up to date. Thanks to Robyn and all the phonies and carers that have made an extra effort to keep up to date with your records. I really appreciate the effort.

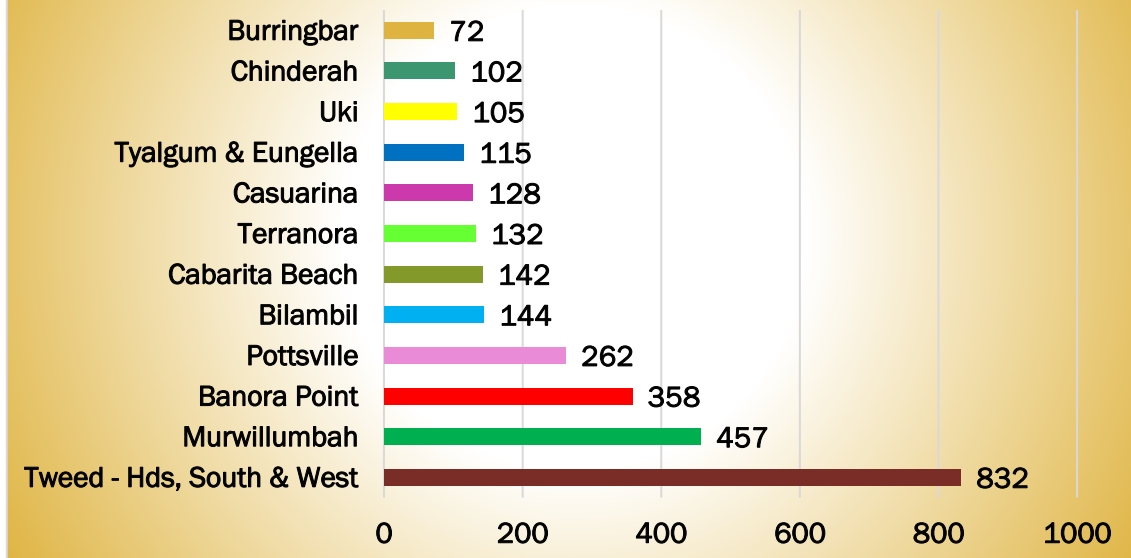


2017-18 Rescued by Species



As you can see below, we received over 3,500 calls to the hotline this year. The phone records, like the animal records, are complete with no days missing this year. This is a great outcome, so a big thanks to all the phonies for completing their phone records. Also, thanks to Robyn who has chased up all the phone records that were missing in her role as phone coordinator. Complete phone records make the OEH report more straight forward and also means that the numbers reflected in the report are accurate.

2017-18 Top ten areas for number of Rescues



Phone Records Totals 3,607 calls to the hotline



CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

Almost 1,000 of our rescued animals had at least one trip to CWH, and of the 965 animals that went through CWH from the group, 310 have already been released during this period, 24 still in care, 489 were euthanised and 110 died.

As records officer, part of my job is checking our records for the outcomes of any animals that have been through CWH. Now that both our phone records and animal records have the Currumbin numbers in place, it is a much easier job to complete.

A total of 965 animals were taken to or received by CWH.

Louise Bally

WEBSITE REPORT

Last year, the hosting computer company deleted the TVWC's website tvwc.org.au off the server. President Jan Pilgrim contacted the Australian section of web complaints department. This took time as the website tvwc.org.au was being used for selling clothing out of China! The website had been purchased and sold by a drop-shipping company.

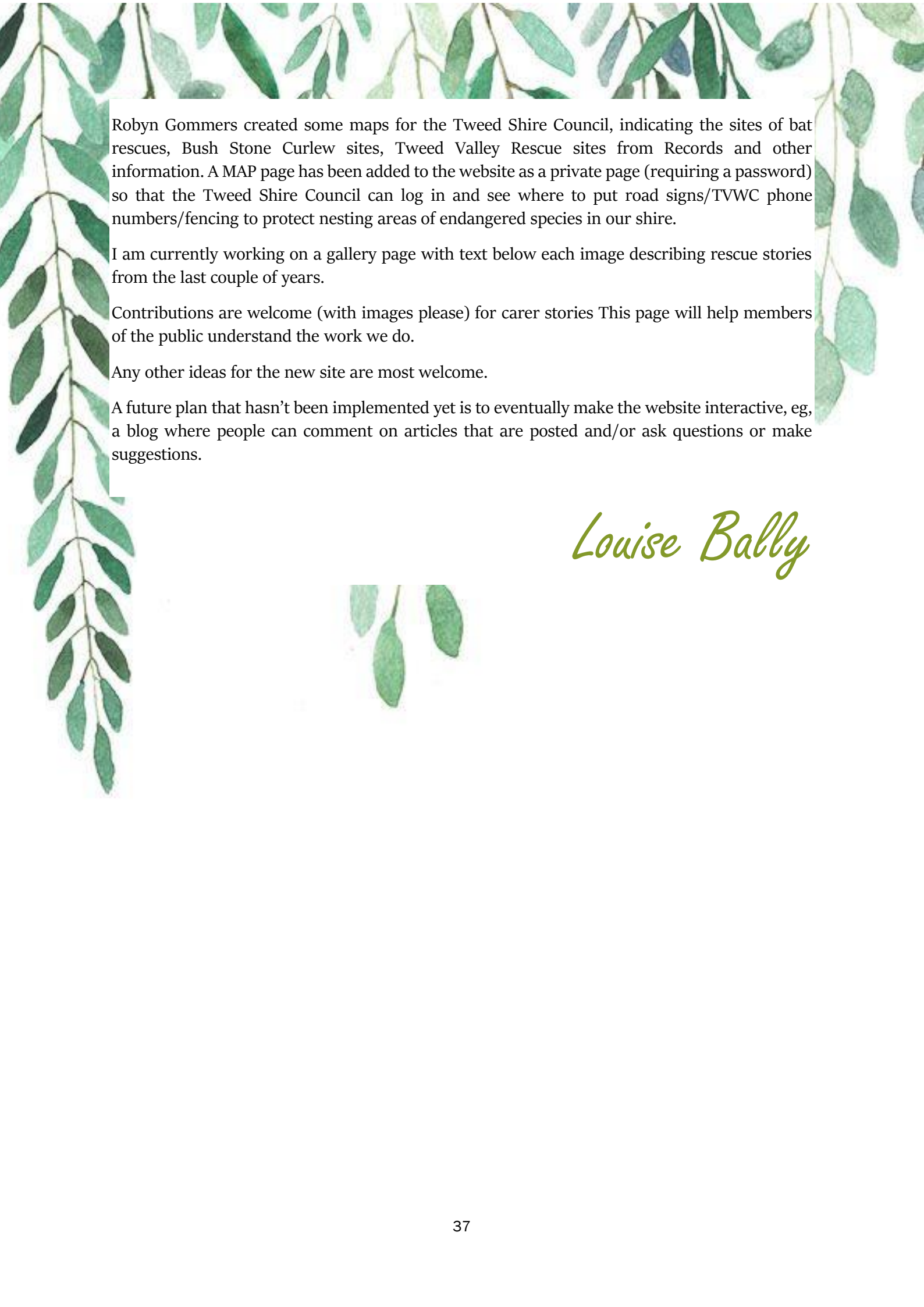
After some negotiation, the original web domain was again available for sale and Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers group bought it again.

We have built a new website which is running and functional with both members' pages and pages for the general public.

The new website is still an ongoing project but it has all the important information needed to keep the public informed about TVWC activities, phone number and contact page.

Because the original website was obliterated, I searched for some of the old data that had been lost. I found an internet archive site that had a copy of our old site so was eventually able to transfer some of the old data across. I recently added a links page using the data from the archive to populate it with all the other wildlife groups we are affiliated with.

The new site's members' area has a page with downloadable PDF group files/guides/policies and more. There is a gateway for logging into the new website for TVWC members and also a portal for logging into Wildman.



Robyn Gommers created some maps for the Tweed Shire Council, indicating the sites of bat rescues, Bush Stone Curlew sites, Tweed Valley Rescue sites from Records and other information. A MAP page has been added to the website as a private page (requiring a password) so that the Tweed Shire Council can log in and see where to put road signs/TVWC phone numbers/fencing to protect nesting areas of endangered species in our shire.

I am currently working on a gallery page with text below each image describing rescue stories from the last couple of years.

Contributions are welcome (with images please) for carer stories This page will help members of the public understand the work we do.

Any other ideas for the new site are most welcome.

A future plan that hasn't been implemented yet is to eventually make the website interactive, eg, a blog where people can comment on articles that are posted and/or ask questions or make suggestions.

Louise Bally



Designed and Created by Jasmine Pereira