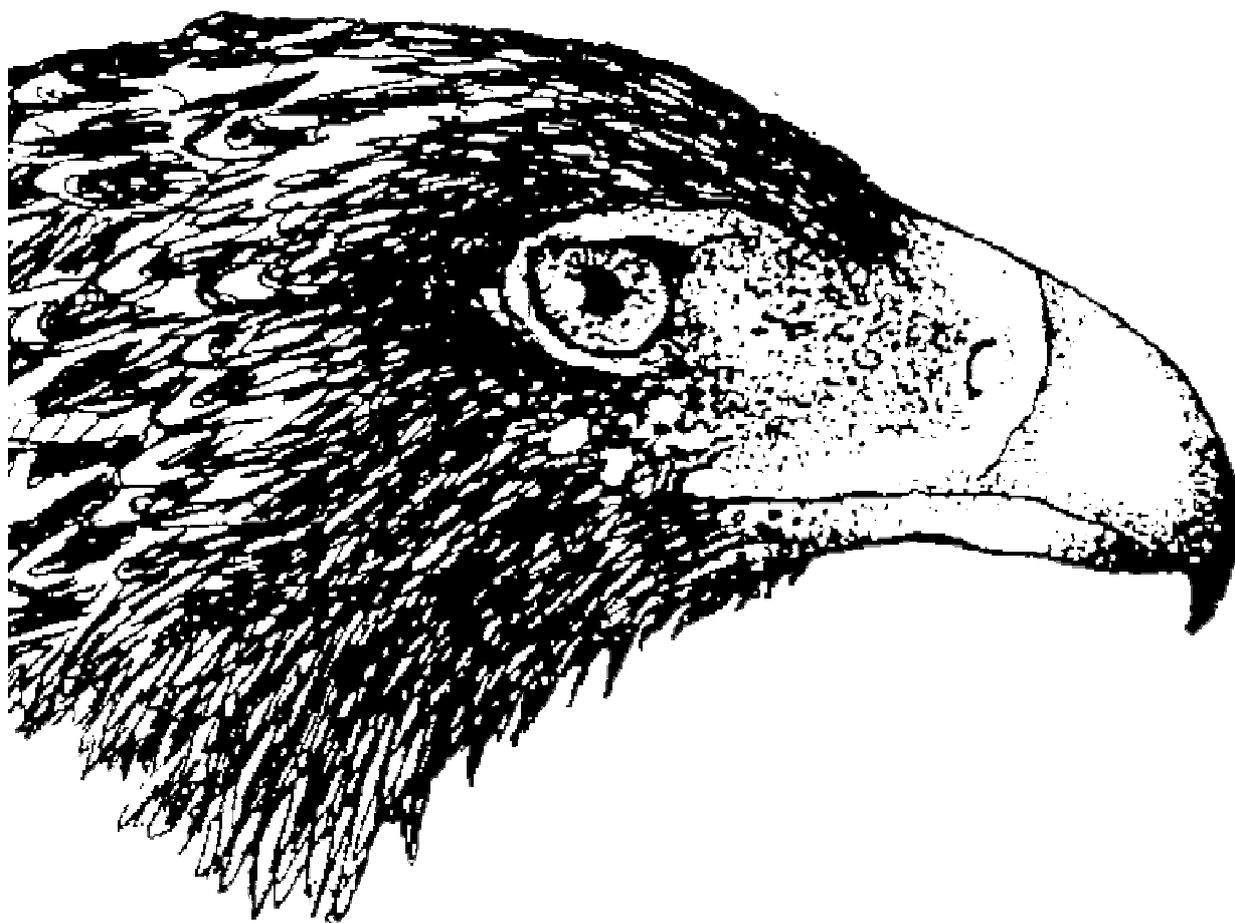


• REHABILITATION • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION •

SOCIETY for the PRESERVATION of RAPTORS (Inc.)



NEWSLETTER

June 2010

www.raptor.org.au

EDITORIAL

We are starting to catch up with a little bit of technology and as such the Society now has its own Facebook page. Also on Facebook are Eagles Heritage and Echo the Barn Owl, so if you're a Facebook member, why not find us and "like" our pages?

While on the subject of the internet, members are reminded of Steve Amesbury's on-going efforts to provide a comprehensive Australian national directory of wildlife rehabilitators at Australian Fauna Care's web site, which may be found on line at www.fauna.org.au. If you are an active rehabilitator, please visit the web site and consider adding your details to the database. If you are already in the database, please check that your details are correct and provide Steve with an update if need be.

Don't forget that our own website at www.raptor.org.au contains information on various raptorial species and educational resources such as our series of Raptor Fact Sheets.

The Society took part in a combined educational display with DEC, WAWRC and FAWNA Busselton for the Balingup Small Farm Field Day on 24 April. It was a great day out and best of all, our combined efforts won the award for Best Informational Display on ground. Kudos to Peter from DEC, Dianne from WAWRC and Cheryl and Vicki from FAWNA who made the day a great success. Shadow the Barn Owl and Cikala the Southern Boobook put in a great effort and as usual were a hit with the public.

The 2010 Perth Royal Show will shortly be looming large on the horizon. Volunteers are always needed for our biggest educational display of the year. If you can help, please contact us. The Show will run for eight days from 25 September to 2 October 2010.

In other news, DEC has a new Coordinator at the Community Involvement Unit. We welcome Hugh MacLean, formerly of the Department of Sport and Recreation. Much thanks and appreciation must go to former Acting Coordinator Judith Holmes, who did a fantastic job heading the unit after Marg Buckland's retirement last year.

Some confusion has arisen from last quarter's article on registration of wildlife rehabilitators. To clarify: the temporary registration system being put in place is actually the old system, not the new accreditation system. DEC had intended to stop all registrations under the old system until the new accreditation system was implemented but are now continuing to register rehabilitators under the old one.

DEC BASIC COURSE IN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

Dates for Basic Courses in Wildlife Rehabilitation for the remainder of 2010 are as follows:

Perth Metropolitan (Kensington):

- 17/24/25 July (3 days)
- 11/12 September

Great Southern (either Walpole or Denmark):

- 21/22 August – *to be confirmed*.

Remember, demand is high and places are limited so if you have not yet attended the Basic Course or it's been more than five years, book yourself a place by contacting Hugh MacLean, DEC's Community Involvement Coordinator at Kensington on (08) 9334 0251.

TRAINING AT KANYANA

Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre will be holding a Subcutaneous Fluids and Tube Feeding workshop on Sunday 1 August at Paxwold. Emergency fluid administration is an absolutely vital skill for the effective wildlife rehabilitator and Kanyana's hands on training sessions are excellent. Contact Kanyana on (08) 9293 1416 for more information. Bookings are essential.

NEW HOMES NEEDED FOR SOCIETY MICROSCOPE AND DISPLAY EQUIPMENT

Some years ago the Society acquired a microscope so that we could carry out some basic diagnostic tests without incurring the high associated costs. Unfortunately Marra, who has the training to use the microscope, doesn't have the space or the time to set it up properly at her current premises so we are now seeking a new home for the device. Also needed is storage space for the Society's display gear which consists of some boards, posters, photographs and sundry items. The display gear is used for events such as the Perth Royal Show and needs somewhere to live when it's not being used.

If you can help, please contact Marra (see back page for contact details.)

PORTABLE T-PERCHES

Portable T-perches are a great tool when training or aviary conditioning a raptor. They can be transported into the field or moved around inside flight aviaries to provide variety and encourage birds to fly further as they recover from the condition that brought them into rehabilitation.

A portable T-perch needs to be flexible enough to have some give when a raptor hits hard, yet heavy enough to provide stability while still being portable.

One way to achieve this is to build a perch with a heavy yet moveable base, a flexible PVC upright, and padded, astroturf-covered cross member.

Old car or light truck wheels or old brake drums make excellent perch bases. They can be found at waste management facilities and wrecking yards. They are generally available fairly cheaply. Select a wheel or drum that is not too corroded and which is fairly heavy, yet able to be lifted without straining.

Give the wheel a good degreasing and spray it with galvanising paint, then leave it out in the weather for a few days to allow the zinc to oxidise safely. You may wish to cover the top with a disc of marine ply as per the perch in the illustration at right or an inverted plastic pot saucer from the local garden centre.

Select enough PVC piping (50mm is a good size to use for most birds) for the upright and cross member as well as a T-shaped connector and two end caps. You will also need some glue suitable for use with PVC.

Purchase some round aluminium or steel tubing with an external diameter which will fit snugly inside the PVC piping. Either ask the supplier to cut it for you or trim the tube to approximately 150-200mm in length.

Either weld or have someone with the right equipment weld the metal tubing to the hub of the wheel or to a small piece of metal plate which can then be screwed or bolted on to the cover if you are using a wooden disc. If you are using a pot saucer, you will need to cut a hole in the centre of the saucer and fit it over the metal tube.

An alternative base for a portable T-perch is an old plough disc. These can be cleaned up, primed with galvanising paint and then painted in a neutral colour once the metal tubing has been welded on.

Now cut your PVC pipe to the required length to give your perch the right height. The height of the perch is up to you and will depend on what you want to use it for. It's a good idea not to go above five feet however as the higher the perch, the less stable it will be. Fit the upright over the metal tube and secure it with a bolt and hex nut.

Fit the T-shaped connector and slide the cross member through it. Trim the cross member to your desired length and secure it in place using two screws (one on either side of the perch.) Glue the end caps in place.



Now cover the cross member with astroturf. If you have a particularly hard-hitting bird such as a Peregrine Falcon or a Brown Goshawk, you may wish to put a layer of rubber on first for extra cushioning. Trim everything to fit, then secure it with cable ties, ensuring that the join is at the very bottom of the cross member. Make sure the cable ties are as tight as you can possibly get them. If you leave them the slightest bit loose, talons can get caught and this can cause serious and permanent injury. Trim the cable ties so that there are no protruding bits of nylon.

Now you have a portable, flexible T-perch that you can move around your training area or aviary. You can even build them to fit into your vehicle to take to educational displays out on the road.

Please note that these perches are *not* suitable for blocking birds.

If you have any questions about making your own portable T-perches as per this article, you can contact Brian Mawby-Brown at EarthWings (see back cover for contact details.)

FOUND IN THE FEED BUCKET

In the past, it has been a bit of a supermarket gimmick to sell a “four legged chicken,” which is a roasting hen packed in a tray with two extra legs, giving the purchaser four legs in total. Good value for the large family or when visitors are coming for dinner.

Imagine the scene, then, at Eagles Heritage one morning when this was pulled out of the feed bucket:



Yes, it's a four legged chicken.

We have little idea as to how it came to be, only that it generated a bit of interest during feed prep.

One may only speculate on what might have come to pass had this animal survived.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due for renewal on 1 July 2010. Please note that if you wish to continue receiving membership benefits such as financial assistance with veterinary bills, it is *absolutely essential* that you pay your subscription fees. Our fees are extremely low, and the monies received get put straight back into supporting wildlife rehabilitation, so please remember to renew.

A membership renewal form will be sent out with this newsletter.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next General Meeting of the Society will be an evening meeting. It will be held on Friday, 18 June 2010 at 7 pm. The meeting will be hosted by Perth Raptor Care at 17 Wellaton St, Midvale.

Please call Secretary Noelene Jenkins on (08) 9453 6567 to register apologies or include any items or topics on the agenda.

HOW TO CONTACT THE SOCIETY

General inquiries (including membership and newsletters)

- e-Mail: via the website
- Website: www.raptor.org.au
- Post: PO Box 415, Forrestfield WA 6058

Coordinator – Philip Pain

- Telephone: (08) 9757 2960 (Margaret River)
- Fax: (08) 9757 2964

Emergency assistance

Perth Metropolitan Area

- Marra Apgar and Dion Mendel – Perth Raptor Care, Midvale Ph: (08) 6369 0705
- Yvonne Sitko – Western Australian Bird of Prey Centre, Herne Hill Ph: 0438 388 383
- Warren and Vienesza Goodwin – Canning Vale Ph: 0448 055 020 (Warren) or 0417 753 597 (Vienesza)
- John and Lyn Frings – Fur and Feathers Wildlife Rescue and Release Inc, Mandurah Ph: 0419 395 114

Country WA

- Philip Pain – Co-ordinator SPR, Eagles Heritage, Margaret River Ph: (08) 9757 2960
- Brian Mawby-Brown and Nancy Tang – EarthWings, Nannup Ph: (08) 9756 0669
- Janelle and Glenn Ende – Just Raptors, Geraldton Ph: (08) 9938 1447
- Rose Best – Pilbara Wildlife Carers Association Inc, Karratha Ph: 0438 924 842