



# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

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• REHABILITATION • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION •

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

Welcome to new members and our returning stalwarts to another year with the Society for the Preservation of Raptors. Our Annual General Meeting was held at Eagles Heritage on Saturday, 13 August. We had exceptionally good attendance from both members and visitors, largely due to our having combined the AGM with a training weekend which attracted quite a bit of interest.

The Society was delighted to welcome Gayle Upson, Robyn Stahl and Peggy Morrison from Great Southern Wildlife Care Inc as visitors for the AGM. It was wonderful to meet and network with our colleagues. Janelle Ende travelled all the way from Geraldton with husband Glenn, son Trent and Trent's girlfriend Amy to spend the weekend with us as well. It was wonderful to see and catch up with the Ende family.

One exciting activity that we had planned was a demonstration of how to fly a Peregrine to a kite-borne lure as a form of intensive pre-release fitness training. Mr Michael Calvin, a keen falconer in his native Britain and now resident in WA, travelled all the way from Perth with a Peregrine in training (duly issued with a temporary Regulation 16 license by DEC) to facilitate the session. Unfortunately, the weather took a turn for the worse and blustery conditions put paid to our plans. We thank Michael for attending and hope that we will have another opportunity in the future to learn more about his work.

Both Coordinator Philip Pain and Secretary Noelene Jenkins presented their annual reports, which were well received. More information may be found inside this issue of the Newsletter.

Treasurer Kathy Pain reported that the Society was in sound financial shape with over \$8,000 in the bank. Some of this is grant money which must be spent on the equipment upgrade project for acquittal by the end of the financial year.

The election of office bearers was a straightforward affair with Noelene Jenkins being the only nominee for the position of Secretary and long-standing Treasurer and Life Member Kathy Pain declining to re-nominate. Kathy nominated Nancy Tang to take up the financial reins and Nancy was elected to the position unopposed.

The meeting was followed by two very interesting discussions led by Janelle Ende and Marra Apgar.

Afterward, our annual informal dinner was held. While the main course was catered for by a local Margaret River business, dessert was lovingly home-made by Noelene and Nancy, who had also made morning tea for the Sunday training sessions.

The next morning, we were joined by Jeff and Linda Falconer and Peter and Carol Vickridge from FAWNA Inc. The weekend concluded at lunch time after practical training sessions were conducted, punctuated, of course, by morning tea. Feedback from the weekend was generally positive and we hope to have more clement weather for our next event!

## COORDINATOR'S REPORT

This has been another fantastic year for our Society. Our members have been out there continuing their great work caring for all the injured and displaced raptors being handed in.

Janelle Ende, our dynamo in Geraldton, had quite a large number of birds handed in over the past year and as usual there were some very interesting cases.

Janelle also continues to monitor the movement and out-break of the parasite Kestrel Leucocytozoon.

Other members have received numerous raptors of various species of eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls with quite a number of birds successfully released

Well done, guys! It's hard work.

Displays conducted over the past year by Society members under the Society's and their own banners continue to enlighten and educate the general public about the importance of birds of prey in the environment. This is vitally important work with members travelling long distances to conduct displays.

New members have joined and some have taken up the challenge to get involved at a hands-on level. They have built their own aviaries and are now helping lighten the load by rehabilitating birds. A special thanks goes out to those new members.

One of the most limiting problems to any rehabilitation program is funding. This can be used for many things including wire, netting, transport, food and veterinary treatment.

Funds raised by the Society are used to assist members with these on-going costs.

The past year's fund raising from our Perth Royal Show event has had a great boost with a fantastic donation from Newcrest Mining for the future care and management of injured raptors. Marra Apgar worked with Newcrest, coordinating treatment for injured raptors handed in by them, which resulted in a \$5,000 donation. Thanks, Marra. It will go a long way.

Nancy Tang's persistent work on our DEC Environmental Community Grant application was successful with a \$3,300 grant for hospital and transport equipment. Again, this funding will go a long way. Great work, thanks, Nancy.

Donations of medical equipment have been coming in thick and fast, in fact we've received more than the Society can use with excess being passed on to other wildlife rescue and rehabilitation groups. Thanks to those people. These donations will be well used by us and by other volunteers across WA.

The 2011 Perth Royal Show is on soon and the usual suspects have put their hands up for the long haul. The dedication required for this all day talk-fest is legendary!

My personal thanks to those people who volunteer for the education programme at the Show: you make it all happen.

Society member numbers go up and down but our Society continues to promote the care, rehabilitation and management of birds of prey both in captivity and in the environment. This is hands-on, grass roots conservation.

I look forward to the next year and the progress of the Society's work in the conservation and preservation of Raptors here in WA and across Australia.

**Philip Pain**  
Coordinator

*Thanks, Phil, for your report. Isn't it nice, dear readers, to have an article written by someone other than the Editor for a change? – Ed.*

## WHITE BELLIED SEA EAGLE NEST ON THE WEB

Birds Australia have set up a webcam at Sydney's Olympic Park Discovery Centre. The camera is focussed on a pair of nesting White Bellied Sea Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) and their newly-hatched chicks. You can look in on the Sea Eagles here:

<http://www.ustream.tv/seaeagles>

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

It has been another great year with members continuing their dedicated work in the care and management of sick and injured raptors. New membership is down on last year with only seven new people joining our group, however renewal of memberships is up. If my calculations are correct, to date we have 25 financial members plus our three life members. (*What with family memberships and all, that works out to 43 souls both brave and true – Ed.*)

Financially, we have done exceedingly well over the 2010/11 year with a \$5,000 donation made by Newcrest Mining. Our sincere thanks to Marra who liaised with Newcrest staff and organised the placement of birds received from their mine sites. We have received some very generous donations from the public this year, have a Society donation tin set up in one of our local pet shops and have had a member of the public sponsor two owls undergoing rehabilitation. Every dollar counts! Being flush with a little money this year we have been able to look toward improving equipment for use in wildlife rehabilitation and update our educational material and display gear.

Thanks to Nancy we have been successful in applying for funding through the Minister's Environmental Community Grants this year. Although we did not get the full amount requested, \$3,300 will go a long way toward providing members with much needed equipment and supplies.

We continue to produce our great Newsletter with thanks to Nancy although I know she would like more input from members with regard to articles etc for the publication.

Our PowerPoint display and course notes for the raptor module of the DEC Basic Course in Wildlife Rehabilitation has also been updated and enhanced as we continue to participate in DEC's volunteer training programmes. A big thank you to all those who continue to give of their time to participate in these events.

The Society successfully participated in the Balingup Small Farm Field Day and the eight-day 2010 Perth Royal Show which brought in a total of \$2,937.65 in donations (this sum does not include the outlay of monies for pamphlets and fund-raising items) however to the best of my knowledge this must be the most we have ever taken over the many years we have been conducting our educational display at the Show. We can only hope that 2011 will be as successful. Many thanks to those members who gave of their time and energy last year, and thank you to those who have volunteered for the 2011 Show.

Throughout the year we have discussed the prospect of establishing our own Best Practice document with Nancy presently working on an outline.

The Society has provided medical and subcutaneous fluid administration kit to appropriately trained members and handed out lots of free equipment and consumables to members and other wildlife groups. Thank you to those members who have been on the lookout for these much-needed medical supplies.

Finally, I am pleased to say that we have again nominated Philip Pain for a place on DEC's Wildlife Rehabilitators' Consultation Group. It remains to be seen if this will be successful. (*It was! – Ed.*)

In conclusion, I would like to personally thank all members for their dedication and hard work throughout the year and wish you all the best for 2011/12.

**Noelene Jenkins**  
Secretary

## TRAINING MANUAL / BEST PRACTICE DOCUMENT

As mentioned in Noelene's report, work has commenced on a document that will combine development of a Best Practice manual with tools that can be utilised for anyone involved in raptor rehabilitation be it as a hands-on rehabilitator, a mentor or a new trainee. It is envisaged that this document will be published in the form of a workbook which can be used to track *ab initio* training and/or continuing education which will eventually become a requirement for accreditation once DEC introduce such a system within our particular volunteer sector. If you feel you have something to contribute and would like to be involved in developing this document, please contact Nancy (see back page for details.)

## CODE OF PRACTICE

The Society's Code of Practice is now available in a smaller format (A5 pamphlet.) If you would like extra copies or if you do not have one to hand, please contact Noelene or Nancy and one will be sent to you.

## TRAINING WEEKEND IN MARGARET RIVER

As an addition to our AGM on 13 August, the Society also hosted two evening presentations and some practical training on the following Sunday morning.

Immediately following the AGM, Janelle Ende presented information on Kestrel Leucocytozoon, which was studied and documented after a spate of admissions of infected Kestrels. Janelle recounted how the parasite was discovered, how to recognise the symptoms in affected birds, and how the disease may be treated. Janelle's experience emphasises how important it is to record unusual occurrences and report them to organisations such as the Australian Wildlife Health Network.

Marra Apgar provided information on pain management for raptors. In the past, pain management has not been a major part of how we have treated wildlife for illness and injury. However, veterinary science now recognises the need for effective pain control in animals, and Marra outlined how she is now incorporating pain management into the treatment of Trichomoniasis, a common and very painful infection in raptorial birds.

The next morning, we were scheduled to start early at 8 am with a fluid therapy session to be followed by a raptor necropsy.

People drifted in slowly however, and we got the first session underway closer to 8:30.

A surprising number of attendees were not confident with tubing or subcutaneous fluid administration, so the session became more basic than originally planned. The use of tubes was explained and the modification of a Ryles tube, which is a naso-gastric feeding tube designed for human patients, was demonstrated.

Competence and confidence with fluid therapy is vital in enabling a raptor to survive the shock and dehydration that often accompanies admission to rehabilitation. In the majority of cases, by the time a raptor is rescued and handed over to a rehabilitator, it will be dehydrated (the rule of thumb is to assume loss of 10% body mass to dehydration) and probably suffering from shock. The risks of the two main types of rehydration pathways (oral and subcutaneous) were discussed as were the different circumstances and situations in which each type of rehydration should be considered.

Tubing is covered in the DEC Basic Course in Wildlife Rehabilitation, but subcutaneous fluid administration is considered an advanced topic. It is nonetheless an important skill which rehabilitators should consider acquiring.

The principles of subcutaneous fluid administration and sharps safety were explained, and the attendees got to practice on the cadavers again. By the time everyone felt confident, we were running short of time, and the decision was made to forego the necropsy session and go straight into safe capture, handling and restraint of a large raptor. After morning tea, of course!

In the rehabilitation section of Eagles Heritage, Phil had selected two Wedge Tailed Eagles which were due for a parasite check and which needed to be relocated from one aviary to another to allow maintenance to be carried out on their accommodation. Our plucky visitors from FAWNA and Great Southern Wildlife Care assisted Phil in the safe capture and restraint of the birds then applied the mite and louse treatment that the birds needed. Both birds were free of live parasites but there were some eggs present so the treatment was delivered at just the right time. In the wild, it is normal for raptors to carry a certain parasite load, but in captivity, where they are in closer proximity to one another than they would be in the bush, it is important to monitor and manage parasite levels. Combining a training session with a scheduled capture means that the treatment actually goes a bit faster than it would otherwise simply due to the greater number of helpers and it minimises stress for the bird while maximising the benefit for the trainees. Big Red the Wedge Tail also needed a review so she was also given the once over by Phil and received a clean bill of health. The birds were moved into a recently refurbished aviary and were left exploring their new surroundings.

When working with live birds it is important to balance the need for people to be trained for their own safety and the needs of the bird for minimal stress. Scheduling training to coincide with treatments is a good way to meet both requirements at the same time.

We hope that our visitors enjoyed their training and now feel more confident in handling and treating raptorial birds. We also hope that they feel comfortable in the knowledge that they can call on the Society's rehabilitators for help and advice at any time. It's also good to know where Society members can find help and support with non-raptorial species., It's always interesting and educational to meet species that we don't encounter on a regular basis and talk with the people who have made the rehabilitation and conservation of those species their life's work.

## **FREEBIES AND CHEAPIES**

We have once again received some very generous donations of medical supplies. Our thanks to members Craig, Sandy and Brandon Bailey, who kindly donated a swag of gear and to member Vanessa Green, who sent down a big box of equipment all the way from Merredin to Margaret River.

Items available for free to members include:

- Suction catheters (mostly FG12) which can be adapted for tubing birds
- Ryles tubes with luer adaptors (mostly FG12) which can be adapted for tubing birds
- Disposable surgical gowns which can be used to protect your clothing if you are dealing with something messy and/or infectious
- Savlon antiseptic cream which can be used on animals with wounds
- Burnaid gel which can be used on burns
- Rapaid ointment which can be used on humans who develop rashes and skin irritation after working with animals and stumbling through the undergrowth rescuing said animals...
- Scissors
- A variety of steel forceps and clamps
- Plastic forceps
- Irrigation saline
- Clorhexidine/Cetrimide antiseptic solution (for external use only)
- Assorted dressings for wound care
- Protexin liquid probiotic – suitable for raptors
- One flat bed scanner – older model. Please inquire for details on compatible operating systems etc.

If you have been trained in subcutaneous fluid administration and have safe sharps disposal arrangements in place, please contact the Society to ask about what we may have available to assist you such as starter kits and restock items. We are currently looking in to obtaining some sharps disposal containers as well. Please always dispose of sharps responsibly. Sharps should NEVER go in to general household or commercial rubbish as they pose a danger to local government workers and contractors who handle waste. Ask your vet, GP or pharmacist for information and assistance on how to safely dispose of sharps in your area.

Member Yvonne Sitko has used her contacts to allow us to purchase some supplies at wholesale prices. While we can provide some items for free, some are a little more expensive but we are able to pass on 100% of the savings to our members (some rounding may be applied to keep the accounting simple but it won't be more than a few cents and is more likely to be down than up.) One of the more expensive but very useful items rehabilitators tend to use is self-adhering bandage (brand names Vetrap, Pet Wrap, Secure Flex Wrap, Coban, Coflex etc.) The Society has purchased a carton of 12 rolls of 15 cm x 4.5 m Coban bandage and members may purchase these from us at the wholesale price of \$12.50 per roll. The 15 cm-wide bandage can be cut down into two 7.5 cm, three 5 cm rolls or your own width of choice which makes it quite economical.

We may, from time to time, have PP40 and PP20 pet packs available. These pet packs are ex-hire and while their condition is sound, they are not "as new" and may require some refurbishment. Please contact us if you are in need of pet packs.

Overall, we have a variety of items available to our members and our stocks are being added to as new donations and purchases are made. If there is something you need for wildlife rehabilitation, please contact us before you go out and pay retail prices in case we can give it to you for free or pass it on at a reduced price. Wildlife rehabilitation can be expensive, and one of the ways in which we support our volunteers is to keep costs down both through financial support for vet bills and by making supplies available as cheaply as possible.

Once again, thank you to our donors and supporters. We couldn't do this without you! Lastly, we do our best to avoid things going to waste: if we can't use it, rest assured we will do our best to pass it on to someone who can.

## **VOLUNTEER TIME SHEETS AND STATISTICS**

DEC registered volunteer wildlife rehabilitators are reminded that time sheets were due to be returned to the Community Involvement Unit on 1 July 2011. You must submit your time sheets in order to be eligible for insurance coverage, volunteer benefits (dependent on the number of hours) and the Minister's Environmental Community Grant programme. In addition, to be eligible for the EC Grants, you must provide statistics on the number, species and disposition of wildlife cared for during the last financial year with your grant application.

If you are an unregistered volunteer wildlife rehabilitator and wish to participate in the EC grants programme via the Society, please contact us. We will advise members when the next round of EC grants is announced. We anticipate that this will be in the first quarter of 2012.

The Society was successful in our application for funding in the 2011 EC grants. We have been awarded \$3,300 toward the purchase of Kimani hospital boxes with heating elements and thermostats (an upgrade from the old bulb-heated boxes which will not work properly with energy saver fluorescent or halogen globes) pet packs and materials with which to line them for use with raptors.

Members who wish to apply for funding as part of a Society project in the 2012 grant funding should submit their project to Coordinator Philip Pain for consideration.

If you do not have a copy of the DEC's volunteer time sheet or you would prefer to use soft copy, the Society has developed an Excel spreadsheet which may be used in lieu of the hard copy version. Contact us if you would like a copy.

## **2011 PERTH ROYAL SHOW**

The 2011 Perth Royal Show is just around the corner. Thanks to all those who have volunteered to help out during the week with our educational display. The week-long display at the Show is the biggest event on our calendar.

Senegalese environmentalist Baba Dioum said, *"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."* Our job at all of our public displays is to teach awareness of and respect for wildlife and the environment we all share.

If you'd like to come and see us at the Show, we will be in the Animal Nursery all week from the 1st to the 8th of October. We hope to see you there.

If you would like to learn more about our community education programme, whether to arrange a display at your school or community group, or to participate as a volunteer, please contact us.

## **WAWRC AGM**

The Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc, of which the Society is a corporate member, held its Annual General Meeting at Kanyana's Paxwold facility on Sunday, 24 July 2011.

### **WAWRC Committee for 2011-12**

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| • Chairperson / Swan Metropolitan East Representative | Jim Maher        |
| • Vice Chairperson / South West Representative        | Peter Vickridge  |
| • Secretary   | Dianne Hunter    |
| • Treasurer   | Nancy Tang       |
| • Swan Metropolitan South Representative              | Warren Alexander |
| • Wheatbelt Representative                            | Sue Eldridge     |
| • Warren Representative                               | Jo Burston       |
| • Goldfields Representative                           | Anne Kent        |
| • Kimberley Representative                            | Jan Martin       |
| • Swan Metro North, Mid West, Great Southern          | Vacant           |

We wish the new committee all the best for the coming year. Contact information for WAWRC may be found at [www.wawrc.org.au](http://www.wawrc.org.au).

## **DEC COURSES IN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION**

The final DEC Basic Course in Wildlife Rehabilitation is scheduled for September 10/11 at the WA Conservation Science Centre on the DEC campus at Kensington. The Raptor module will be presented by Marra Apgar.

Attendance at the Basic course is important for anyone wishing to volunteer as a wildlife rehabilitator and will be an essential requirement in the new accreditation process. If you would like to attend either for the first time or as a refresher, you can contact Lorene Bennett at the DEC Community Involvement Unit on (08) 9334 0251 to book your place.

Course dates for 2012 will be determined later this year and we will advise of the schedule as soon as the information is to hand.

As a general rule, there are two regional courses each year, and the location of the regional courses is dependent on demand from the local community. Regional Wildlife rehabilitators who want to see a course presented in their area should contact DEC's Community Involvement Unit and discuss the possibility with Hugh or Lorene.

Every year, the presentation and content of the DEC Basic course is reviewed by staff from the Community Involvement Unit and the course presenters. Society members who would like to offer suggestions for the Basic course review or Advanced topics for 2012 should contact Nancy (see back page for details) before September 15.

## **DEC WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS' CONSULTATION GROUP**

Correspondence has been received from DEC's Community Involvement Unit that the Society has a place on the Wildlife Rehabilitators' Consultation Group for the next two year term. The Society's nominated representative is our founder and coordinator Philip Pain.

WRCG members for this term are:

- Philip Pain – Coordinator, Society for the Preservation of Raptors Inc.
- Dianne Hunter – Secretary, Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc.
- Kathleen Verrier – Veterinarian and Wildlife Rehabilitator
- Jeff Falconer – President, FAWNA Inc
- Justine Lee – Chairperson, Great Southern Wildlife Care
- Jo Burston – Maroo Wildlife Refuge
- Amanda Payne – WA Conservation of Raptors
- June Butcher – CEO, Kanyana
- Chris Phillips – General Manager, Kaarakin
- Lizzie Aravidis – CEO, Native Animal Rescue
- Pauline Meador – Native ARC Rehabilitation Centre
- Simone Vitali – Senior Vet, Perth Zoo
- Dave Mell – Manager, Nature Protection Branch DEC
- Rick Dawson – Regional Compliance Co-ordinator, Nature Protection Branch DEC
- Kathleen Lowry – Manager, Recreation Interpretation and Community Involvement Unit DEC
- Hugh Maclean – Co-ordinator, Community Involvement Unit, DEC

One of the issues that the WRCG will be addressing will be the review of DEC's Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation. Phil is aware of members' concerns and comments regarding the Standards and will be bringing them to the attention of the WRCG.

The next meeting of the WRCG will be on Tuesday, 30 August 2011. The group meets on a quarterly basis.

If you have a wildlife rehabilitation issue that you would like brought to the attention of the WRCG, please contact Phil to discuss it (see details back page.)

## **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

The next General Meeting of the Society (last one for 2011) will be held later this year in Perth.

The date and venue details have not yet been finalised but members will receive a formal Notice of Meeting either via e-mail or post once details have been confirmed.

## **HOW TO CONTACT THE SOCIETY**

### **General inquiries**

- e-mail: via the website
- Website: [www.raptor.org.au](http://www.raptor.org.au)
- Post: PO Box 415, Forrestfield WA 6058
- facebook: [www.facebook.com/raptor.org.au](http://www.facebook.com/raptor.org.au)
- **Coordinator:** Philip Pain – Ph: (08) 9757 2960 (Margaret River)
- **Secretary:** Noelene Jenkins – Ph: (08) 9453 6567 (Perth)
- **Treasurer / Webmaster / Newsletter Editor:** Nancy Tang – Ph: (08) 9756 0669 (Nannup)

### **Education Programmes and Displays**

- Philip Pain – Co-ordinator SPR, Eagles Heritage Raptor Wildlife Centre, Margaret River Ph: (08) 9757 2960
- Marra Apgar and Dion Mendel – Perth Raptor Care, Midvale Ph: (08) 6369 0705
- Yvonne Sitko – Western Australian Birds of Prey Centre, West Swan Ph: 0438 388 383
- Brian Mawby-Brown and Nancy Tang – EarthWings, Nannup Ph: (08) 9756 0669
- Janelle Ende – Just Raptors, Geraldton, Ph: (08) 9938 1447
- Rose Best – Pilbara Wildlife Carers Association Inc, Karratha Ph: 0438 924 842

## **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

### **Perth Metropolitan Area**

- Marra Apgar and Dion Mendel – Perth Raptor Care, Midvale Ph: (08) 6369 0705
- Yvonne Sitko – Western Australian Birds of Prey Centre, West Swan Ph: 0438 388 383
- Warren and Vinessa Goodwin – Canning Vale Ph: 0448 055 020 (Warren) or 0417 753 597 (Vinessa)

### **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 Ende – Just Raptors, Geraldton, Ph: (08) 9938 1447
- Rose Best – Pilbara Wildlife Carers Association Inc, Karratha Ph: 0438 924 842