



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2012

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• REHABILITATION • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION •

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EDITORIAL

We must begin this edition of the Newsletter with an apology: we were due to go to print in the last week of November but a number of issues including the Margaret River bush fire, the much larger but less publicised Milyeannup bush fire and the festive season set production back significantly. Apart from being a wildlife rehabilitator, your editor is also a volunteer logistics officer with the local bush fire brigade, and things got a bit fraught for a while there.

An object lesson in fire preparedness was inflicted on Eagles Heritage at the end of November 2011 when the Margaret River bush fire came perilously close to the park. The facility had to be evacuated, and no matter how many times a fire plan is reviewed, there is nothing like a real emergency to test the plan. And the blood pressure. One thing we all noticed was that as we dealt with the on-going emergency, we all forgot to drink enough water and ended up dehydrated by mid-afternoon. This was despite the fact that we all kept reminding each other to drink. We drank water, but not enough of it.

Thank you to everyone from right around Australia who phoned, e-mailed and/or posted on facebook to check up on us and to offer help during the fires. Your kind thoughts and gestures are very much appreciated. We're all fine now.

In slightly less adrenaline-fuelled news, the 2011 Perth Royal Show was a success. See inside for Noelene's report on how we went.

This year, we'll be looking at our training calendar. Of course it helps if we can provide and refer our members to training courses that you want and need to attend, so please let us know what you'd like to learn in the coming months, particularly at our AGM, which we'd like to turn into a training weekend again this year as we did in 2011.

Sometimes you can learn by spending a weekend with our Coordinator Phil Pain at Eagles Heritage, sometimes you can learn by attending a training session with the Society, and sometimes we'll refer to you specialist trainers in other wildlife organisations to make sure you get the best possible learning opportunities.

Our friend and colleague Jo Burston, who many Society members will recall from the DEC Basic Course in Wildlife Rehabilitation as a presenter and Veterinary Nurse from Perth Zoo, has left the Zoo and run off with a man! The man in question is Jo's husband Glen Burston, who is also a registered volunteer wildlife rehabilitator, and the two of them have established Maroo Wildlife Sanctuary, a new wildlife rehabilitation and education facility in Perup, just out of Manjimup. Jo and Glen will be offering a variety of training courses in 2012. Please see the article on page 2 for upcoming courses in April and May.

The DEC Basic Course calendar has also been published. Please see page 3 for information.

The Society wishes everyone a very happy Easter. May the remainder of 2012 bring you everything you need.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It has been a while between newsletters and I'll start with some history from 2011: the Perth Royal Show display is our biggest fund raiser for the year and involves perhaps the most effort when it comes to organisation. Paperwork for the event starts as early as the first week of August when ID cards, tickets and rosters are requested by the Royal Agricultural Society. While it is usually the cause of a few more grey hairs on our intrepid secretary's head, everything is normally in order by the time the big week arrives.

I thought that 2011 may have been a little quieter than previous years taking into consideration that our public holiday had been moved for CHOGM (so that we could celebrate the Queen's Birthday while the lady in question was here in Perth!) and the prevailing economic climate, but I was greatly (and pleasantly) surprised by the number of people who attended the Show as well as their generosity. 2011 has proven to be our most successful year ever, with \$2,272.84 nett proceeds (after expenses) this being a combination of merchandise sales and donations. Days four, seven and eight were our busiest and most profitable.

While fund raising is important (let's face it, we couldn't do what we do without funding) it's not our core business or our mission. Our mission at the Royal Show is education and we certainly spoke with and enlightened a lot of people with information about our beautiful native raptors. Our educational display would not go ahead if not for a number of our dedicated members new and old who continually volunteer their time and energies.

Firstly, a big thank you to Marra and Dion who not only spend two days at the helm during Show Week, they also carry out set up and knock down before and after the Show proper. This is a massive task in and of itself. Well done, you two!

A special thank you to our country and regional members who make the long trip up to Perth. Our fearless coordinator Phil does it twice: once at the beginning and once at the end of Show Week. (Our Treasurer has worked out that it costs about \$100 in fuel alone to make the round trip once.) Other regional members include our Treasurer Nancy, Phil K from Denmark and junior member Richard from Augusta who participated for his second year and did an outstanding job as always. Special thanks to Richard's parents Kerry and Peter for bringing him to Perth for Show Week.

Kudos also to members Carl, Renae, Craig and young Brandon, all of whom did a sterling job.

Honourable Mention must go to long-time member Domenic who spent five days of Show Week at the coalface, most of it locked up in the enclosed aviary area with Eagles Heritage's stunning Wedge Tailed Eagle Anastasia. We only let Domenic out when Anastasia was returned to her travel box so that he could hold another raptor instead. What a trouper!

So thank you again to one and all who helped out. It was another successful year, both in terms of keeping the bank balance ticking over to support active rehabilitation of wildlife and getting the word out about conservation of our irreplaceable environment and the role of our precious wildlife – particularly raptors – in maintaining the balance.

I hope everyone has stayed safe through the trials and tribulations of the fire season and I hope to catch up with as many of you as possible at our meetings, the DEC Basic Course in Wildlife Rehabilitation and educational events throughout 2012 and beyond.

~ Noelene

TRAINING AT MAROO WILDLIFE REFUGE MANJIMUP

Many of our members will recall Jo Burston from the DEC Basic courses. Jo's change of location from Perth to Perup in the Shire of Manjimup hasn't dulled her enthusiasm for wildlife rehabilitation, training rehabilitators or her amazing breadth and depth of knowledge! Jo will be presenting the following courses at Maroo's brand new training facility in Perup over the next couple of months:

- CARING AND REHABILITATION OF REPTILES – SUNDAY 22ND APRIL 2012 – 9AM TO 3PM
- BANDAGING SPLINTS, CROP FEEDING AND TUBE FEEDING – SUNDAY 20TH MAY – 9AM TO 3PM

Course costs are \$25 per person. For more details and to secure your place, please ring Jo on 0409 086 973 or email dollar.downs@bigpond.com

DEC BASIC COURSES IN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

Dates for DEC Basic Courses in Wildlife Rehabilitation for 2012 have now been published:

- March 24,25 – Conservation Science Centre, DEC Kensington
- May 19, 20 – Conservation Science Centre, DEC Kensington
- May 28,29 (Mon, Tues) – Conservation Science Centre, DEC Kensington
- June 16,17 (Regional) – venue to be confirmed – Kalgoorlie
- July 28,29 – Conservation Science Centre, DEC Kensington
- August 18,19 (Regional) – venue to be confirmed – Katanning
- September 8,9 – Conservation Science Centre, DEC Kensington

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.

FREEBIES and CHEAPIES (Members Only)

One service the Society likes to extend to our members is to make obtaining the equipment and consumables that we use for wildlife rehabilitation as cheap as possible. We cut costs for active rehabilitators by distributing donated equipment, making wholesale purchases, subsidising veterinary bills out of the donations and funds that we raise throughout the year and sometimes by combining forces to maximise our buying power.

We still have some large rolls of vetrap available at the wholesale price of \$12.50 per roll.

We also have a variety of sundry items including tubing and dressings etc which are available for free. Subcut starter kits are available to those who have completed subcut training. Please note that sharps will only be given to members who are trained in the safe handling of sharps and who have a safe disposal arrangement in place.

We are currently looking at giving members the opportunity to band together to get bulk discounts on aviary materials. A purchase of powder-coated fully modular 1.5m wide x 1.8m tall aviary panels is soon to go ahead at the discounted price of \$74.20 for plain panels and \$93.12 for panels with doors.

On the table is the possible purchase of steel-framed chainlink mesh dog pens which may be useful as weathering mews or safety enclosures for blocks and jump boxes. The selling agent has offered a discount on both the pens and shipping if we order multiple items. The extended price will depend on the number ordered. These usually retail at around \$500 for the pen and \$120 to ship to Perth from the eastern states.

Both of these enclosure options require roofs! So members may also wish to go shares in buying shadecloth, poly pipe and/or aviary wire by the roll. It's a lot cheaper that way and just takes a bit of central organisation.

These purchasing opportunities will be on the agenda at the March General Meeting so if you are interested please come along and join in the discussion!

EAGLES HERITAGE YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Eagles Heritage is going all teckernoggical. Not only does the park have a facebook page, it now has a YouTube channel as well! There are only two videos up at the time of going to press but staff are working on creating and posting more.

It is hoped that these videos will draw people in for the interest/entertainment value and educate them while they're not looking. As Steve Martin of IAATE* says, if you're going to entertain, you've got to make sure you get the message in there!

The Eagles Heritage YouTube channel may be found at www.youtube.com/user/EaglesHeritage

* IAATE – International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notices of meeting were distributed to members in February. The next General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, March 24 at 10 am. The venue for this meeting will be the Secret Garden Café in Angelo Street, South Perth.

As a table has to be booked, it is essential that attendees RSVP to Marra Apgar on (08) 6369 0705 as early as possible.

If you have an item of business for the agenda, please contact Noelene on (08) 9453 6567.

HOW TO CONTACT THE SOCIETY

General inquiries

- e-mail: via the website
- Website: www.raptor.org.au
- Post: PO Box 415, Forrestfield WA 6058
- facebook: 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 (Members with DEC Wildlife Display licenses)

- 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