



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2012

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• REHABILITATION • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION •

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EDITORIAL

The last few months have given the Society some highs and some lows. Our big high note was of course the 2012 Perth Royal Show, where we hit a new high for fund raising and had a great turnout from our volunteers.

A low note was that we have been without our hard-working Secretary Noelene for a while as she recovers from ear surgery. Some of our members may be aware that Noelene has been suffering from intense vertigo for some years since pressure changes on a flight back from a holiday in Japan *popped a hole in one of the semicircular canals in one ear!* It's the semicircular canals in our ears that control our sense of balance – our perception of up, down and sideways – so Noelene's brain was receiving a lot of anomalous information from a very important sense organ. Doctors were stumped and one even accused her of malingering until a positive diagnosis was made following a scan at Fremantle Hospital. In August, Noelene underwent a rare procedure to fill the faulty canal with bone cement, thus removing the anomalous input. This effectively replaces the random anomaly with a constant one, and Noelene now faces months of rehabilitation to retrain her brain to work off the normal input of five semicircular canals and one completely (literally) stuffed one. The constant vertigo and almost-constant nausea means that our Noels isn't at the top of her game and won't be for some time, so please be patient and if you need to talk to an officer of the Society on an urgent matter, please contact either Phil or Nancy who will help you out (see back page for details.)

The fire season has begun and with it a tragedy in the Great Southern where a DEC fire fighter/conservation employee was killed in a disastrous burn-over incident. It has been decades since a DEC fire fighter has been lost in the line of duty and it brings home the frightening truth that if it can happen to the professionals, it can happen to any of us. Predictions are that this year's fire season will be a bad one. Remember: there are no prizes for staying too long when there's a fire nearby, and staying too long risks the lives of fire fighters and other emergency personnel who have to go into a danger zone to rescue you. Review your fire plan, conduct a dry run of your evacuation plan, and be sure to be ready to leave with all your animals in plenty of time. If you have volunteers on stand-by, call them in sooner rather than later. If you leave it too late, they won't be allowed in to help you. Fire can strike anywhere, be it town or country, and when there's a fire in a wildlife facility, it's not just us we have to worry about, it's also our volunteers and our animals. Could you get everyone out in time?

With the start of summer we will undoubtedly be seeing many first-year birds who are struggling to get by. Remember that you have a support network to fall back on and that the Society maintains stocks of a variety of freebies and cheapies (consumables and equipment) to help members out as well as our bank of loan equipment. If you need help, please ask for it and we will do our best to help you.

Lastly we would like to wish all our members, friends and supporters the very best for the approaching festive season. Please remember that the best way to have fun is to do so safely and responsibly so that you can keep on having more fun! Whatever you celebrate, whatever you honour at this time of year, may you have joy and fulfilment of it, and may the New Year bring you all that you need.

2012 PERTH ROYAL SHOW

The Perth Royal Show is over for another year and as usual we have had a very intense and busy eight days. Coordinator Phil shouldered the lion's share of the load, travelling up from Margaret River for the first two days with his birds Sooty the Lesser Sooty Owl and Ivy and Whitethorn the fledgling Barn Owls, then returning to Margaret River to work for a week (without a break) before driving back to Perth again with the birds to work the last two days of the Show. Quite the Herculean effort! Well done, Phil. Marra worked days 3 and 6 with Miranda the Goshawk, Swerve the Kestrel and Yozzie the Peregrine. Yours truly drove up from Nannup to work days 4 and 5 with Echo and Willow the Barn Owls and Cikala the Southern Boobook.

A big thank you to our volunteers, especially Secretary Noelene who is still suffering severe vertigo and nausea following her middle ear surgery but came and worked the display for the first weekend anyway, and Dominic who took time out from a crushing schedule to put in a hard day's work as well. Thank you to Marra and Dion, not only for bringing their birds and exercising the privileges of their license for two days but also for coming in before and after Show Week in order to set up and knock down the display.

Thank you to Richard for a big 4 day effort plus making a dash to our wholesaler to pick up merchandise for the stall mid-week! Thanks to new member John for putting in four days for his first time out; Renee (3 days); Carl (2 and a half days); Bethan and Trish (2 days); Craig, Brandon and Kerin (1 day.)

All in all, a massive effort was put in by everyone. Thank you also to all those volunteers who got in early to help with our daily set up and who stayed late to help with the nightly packing up.

Thank you to Kathy Pain who organised the merchandise and donated \$180 worth of stock for us to sell. She also sat at the kitchen table and MADE most of the fridge magnets. Yes, we make those magnets ourselves to cut out the middle man and make sure we get unique designs featuring Society birds. (Thank you to all the birds who put up with me prowling around their aviaries and perches taking photos.)

As many of us observed, we sold quite a lot of stock and by the end of the week we had sold out, so well done everyone. Donations remained on par with last year (a mere \$70 less) while sales outstripped all previous efforts! After all costs have been subtracted (ie: purchase of merchandise, printing of fact sheets etc) we cleared \$1,248.65 in donations and \$2,163.18 from sales, totalling nett profit of **\$3,411.83** from our efforts.

Last year we took home \$2,272.84, which was the best year ever at the time, and this year we have surpassed that, thanks to Kathy's efforts in securing attractive merchandise and all of our volunteers' efforts in selling it as well as obtaining donations from the public.

These funds will be used to pay vet bills and purchase consumables and equipment for the rehabilitation of our native raptors. Whilst the Society does incur some administrations costs such as web hosting, domain registration, internet access, printing and GST, we strive to keep these to a minimum so that we can maximise the amount that directly benefits sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. We pay no wages or commissions, so we can all be sure that the majority of each dollar donated or earned will go to help raptors in need.

Again, well done and thank you to everyone who made the display possible. One of the main aims of the Society is conservation through education, and your efforts helped us to reach a lot of people in quite a short space of time. The fundraising is critical for our rehabilitation operations, but the education is important too, and it couldn't happen without our magnificent team of volunteers.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Many Society members are with us because they want to help our wildlife, but not everyone is in a position to be a hands-on rehabilitator. Those who can take on rehabilitation birds sometimes need a bit of help and support though, with things like:

- Collection and/or transport of birds between centres and/or veterinary facilities;
- Collection and/or transport of frozen food;
- Collection and/or transport of other items (eg: equipment.)

The Society reimburses members for petrol costs on submission of original receipts and mileage information. If you can help out now and then, please let us know.

FREEBIES AND CHEAPIES

We have spent some of our Royal Show money on some new equipment which is available for loan to members only. A limited number of folding/pop-up dog kennels have been purchased for our volunteers to keep in their vehicles for emergencies. The units are very useful for when calls for rescue or collection come in while you are away from home because it means you can go straight out to the site without having to return for a pet pack. Collapsible units do not replace pet packs but are only suitable as an emergency/very short term transport option.

Please keep in mind that the Society retains stocks of donated and bulk-purchased consumables for use by our members in the rehabilitation of wildlife, so if you need stuff, please call us and see if you can get it for free or cheap before you pay retail prices. This is one of the ways we support our volunteers.

For more information, please contact Nancy (see back page for details.)



WHAT'S ON?

It's the Silly Season, so not much is on at all, Society-wise, apart from our meeting on 9 December (see back page for details.)

We hope to have dates for the DEC Basic Course in Wildlife Rehabilitation for 2013 in our next newsletter as well as other training information as it comes to hand.

In the meantime, below is what we have managed to cobble together so far.

CALENDAR for 2012-13

Sunday, 9 December 2012 – Ordinary General Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Raptors Inc.

Wed 19 December 2012 – Sunday 3 February 2013 – School holidays

Tuesday 1 January 2013 – New Year's Day public holiday

Monday 28 January 2013 – Australia Day public holiday observed

Monday 4 March – Labour Day public holiday

Friday 29 March – Monday 1 April 2013 – Easter break

Saturday 20 April 2013 – Balingup Small Farm Field Day – Society display (to be confirmed)

Saturday 20 April – Sunday 5 May 2013 – School holidays

Thursday 25 April 2013 – ANZAC Day

Monday 3 June – Western Australia Day public holiday (formerly Foundation Day)

Saturday 6 July – Sunday 21 July 2013 – School holidays

Saturday 28 September – Saturday 5 October 2013 – Perth Royal Show – Society display (to be confirmed)

Saturday 28 September – Sunday 13 October 2013 – School holidays

Monday 30 September – Queen's Birthday public holiday observed

Friday 20 December 2013 – Sunday 2 February 2014 – School holidays

If you would like to help out at any of the Society displays, please let us know. Our displays are the main way we work toward conservation of raptors and other native fauna – through grass roots community education. Displays are generally a great day out, you get to meet people and you get to spend quality time with our very special education birds.

NEXT MEETING

Volunteers remain under re-construction at the moment as our Secretary and Treasurer continue to recuperate post-surgery. Our next meeting will be held on **Sunday, 9 December 2012** at Perth Raptor Care, 17 Wellaton Street, Midvale at **4:00 pm**.

The meeting will be followed by an informal BYO barbecue. Please bring your own meat/fish/protein for barbecuing as well as whatever you would like to drink. Salads and sides will be provided.

So that we don't end up with too much or not enough salads and sides, please RSVP to Marra on 08 6369 0705.



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

- 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 Bird of Prey Centre, West Swan Ph: 0438 388 383
- 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

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

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