



# NEWSLETTER

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• REHABILITATION • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION •

Society for the Preservation of Raptors Incorporated

raptor.org.au

## The Five Freedoms

When we accept the responsibility of care and rehabilitation for any animal, we accept responsibility for delivering *everything* the animal needs. We are responsible for every aspect of its health and well-being until it can return to the wild and take care of itself. The Society's Code of Ethics stresses that the needs of the animals in our care must be our first and foremost consideration and this is what should be uppermost in our minds when we deal with the birds entrusted to us.

'Our' birds are not pets or possessions. They are wild creatures and we have been afforded the great privilege and responsibility of sharing a small part of their journey. They are not here for us. We have made a clear and conscious choice to be here for them.

Like doctors and veterinarians, we should also keep in mind that other ancient principle: **above all, do no harm**. All animals deserve the 'Five Freedoms' which were first described by Drs Folger and Scherk\* in 2010. These are:

- Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition
- Freedom from physical and thermal discomfort
- Freedom from fear and distress
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour as long as it does not cause injury to them or others.

In order to deliver these five freedoms we must work together with animal health professionals to manage pain, minimise stress and do our utmost to facilitate a successful return to the wild or other ethical alternative for final disposition of the animal. Sometimes that means making the hard call and accepting that we must suffer too, in a way, when euthanasia is the only humane option left open to us. When that happens, we must be strong for the animal, but we must also remember that we are not alone. We have—we *are*—a support network of like-minded individuals who are always there to listen, sympathise, educate and counsel from experience.

If you would like a copy of the Society's Code of Ethics, it is available from our website or you can contact us to ask for a copy.

\* Folger, WR & Scherk, MS (2010) *The veterinarian's responsibilities at the end of a cat's life*

*"The language of birds is very ancient, and like other ancient modes of speech, very elliptical;*

*little is said, but much is meant and understood."*

- Gilbert White, naturalist (1720-1793)



A male Brown Falcon is released in Balingup, WA

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# Holiday wishes and Next Meeting

It's that time of year again where we put up the decorations and prepare to celebrate. At this time we look back over the year and think about what we've achieved and what we have to work toward in the coming year. Our thoughts turn to loved ones and the people who are important in our lives. Whatever you believe and celebrate at this time, we wish you all the best and look forward to 2016 being a great year for all of us.

Our **next meeting** will be held at 45 Stringybark Way, Forrestfield on **Friday, 27th November 2015 at 10:00 am**. This time has been chosen to fit in with Phil's visit to Perth. Morning tea will be provided.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, a Blessed Solstice to all.

## 2015 Perth Royal Show by Noelene Jenkins, Secretary

As most members would be aware, the Royal Show display is our biggest event for the year and the one that fills our coffers to enable the Society to meet its financial commitments for another year. Logistically, it is a huge effort starting with an official request from the Royal Agricultural Society in May all the way through to bump out by Marra and Dion the week after the Show closes in October.

Unlike last year, the weather was perfect, however visitor numbers were down due to a number of factors. All our magnificent display birds worked beautifully and kept the public enthralled while members engaged in educating and raising awareness of conservation and environmental issues. We had our petition to have the damage mitigation license for the Wedge Tailed Eagle abolished and collected over 1,400 signatures.

THANK YOU to Marra and Dion, Phil, Yvonne, Dominic and Savannah (aged 9), Kathy, Kerin, Bethan, John, Richard, Alicia, Renae, Michelle and Lyn who came along to put in the hard yards (as did !!) It is worth noting that three of our oldest members did four or more days which is a huge ask and one which will not be sustainable in the future. It is obvious that the Society must promote new and younger members to fill in the gaps in coming years and that we also need more working education birds on hand to keep the educational programme going.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a safe 2016.

## Celebrate Raptors All Year

Are you stuck for a special gift for the raptorophile in your life? Why not give a present that will last all year? Yes, the 2016 Society for the Preservation of Raptors wall calendar is about to go to print and available for pre-order.

This thirteen month calendar features fourteen portraits of Australian raptorial birds and a large clear grid with the dates for each month from January 2016 to January 2017 inclusive all printed on quality gloss stock.

The calendar retails at \$20 and Society members will receive a special discount of \$5 per calendar bringing the members' price down to \$15 plus postage and packaging where applicable (P&P consists of an Australia Post tough bag plus stamps to deliver your parcel.)

Contact us to purchase your copy today!

Society for the Preservation of Raptors Inc.

2016 Calendar



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