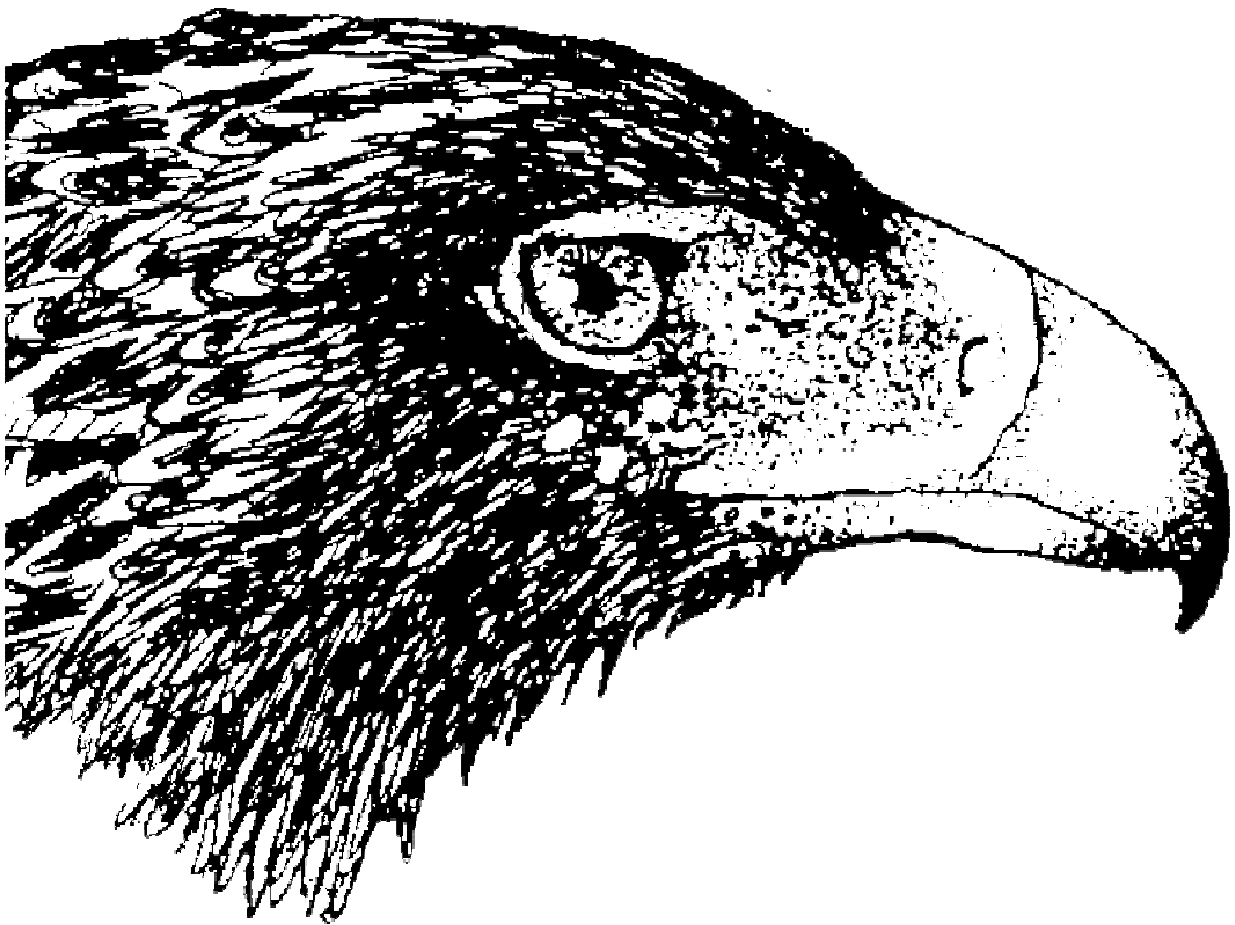


• REHABILITATION • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION •

SOCIETY for the PRESERVATION of RAPTORS (Inc.)



NEWSLETTER

September 2009

www.raptor.org.au

EDITORIAL

It's almost time for the 2009 Perth Royal Show. The Show runs from Saturday, 26th September to Saturday, 3 October 2009. If you can help with our biggest community environmental education project for the year, please contact Noelene Jenkins on (08) 9453 6567 and leave a message.

There has been a very quiet changing of the guard at DEC: after 11 years as Coordinator of the Community Involvement Unit and a total of 24 years with DEC, Marg Buckland has retired. Our best wishes to Marg for a happy retirement. Judith Holmes will be Acting Coordinator until the position is filled permanently.

In other news, the Society's Annual General Meeting was held at Eagles Heritage on 8 August 2009. At the meeting, long-standing office bearers were unanimously re-elected. Office bearers of the Society are:

- Coordinator – Philip Pain
- Secretary – Noelene Jenkins
- Treasurer – Kathy Pain

A motion was tabled and passed that the Society join the Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc (WAWRC) as a corporate member. As membership of WAWRC is currently free, this has not cost us anything. WAWRC is a state-wide body supporting, representing and advocating for wildlife rehabilitators in WA, so its aims and activities are very much in line with those of the Society.

At the AGM, we tried out a bit of technology for the first time and found it to be a success. We trialed a PolyCom conference phone that was on loan to us from WAWRC. To keep costs to a minimum, and since it was basically an experiment, we decided to use the existing three-way chat option already on the phone service at Eagles Heritage. Members Marra Apgar and Yvonne Sitko were our guinea pigs for the event, and dialled in from Perth as the AGM began. To the delight of all participants, our foray into modern communications technology worked and we were able to teleconference!

Depending on the availability of equipment, we might be able to teleconference at future meetings, and if we have enough people interested we might splurge on the cost of a proper Telstra teleconference, which needs to be booked and paid for if we have more than two people phoning in. What this means is that for future meetings, it may be possible for members who can't attend in person but would like to participate to phone in and attend remotely.

You can let us know that you'd like to phone in for a meeting by contacting either Noelene or Nancy, and we will try to make it happen. As stated, the ability to teleconference is entirely contingent on availability of equipment.

Those members who have not yet re-subscribed for 2009/10 are reminded that this will be your last newsletter if you do not renew your subscription. Membership entitles you not only to your quarterly newsletter but also to a range of other benefits including access to loan equipment and financial assistance with veterinary bills incurred in the rehabilitation of raptors. Our subscription rates remain extremely low, and every little bit helps our efforts to support wildlife rehabilitation. To those who have renewed and made donations, thank you. Your support is appreciated and valued.

Finally, welcome to our new members. It's great to have you on board.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CONFERENCE 2010

The now biennial National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference will be held in Adelaide, running from the 21st to the 24th of June 2010 at the Sebel Playford Hotel.

The website at www.nwrc.com.au has been updated to reflect the new conference information, so do surf in and have a look. Kudos to the organising committee who have been working hard behind the scenes to put on such a valuable event for wildlife rehabilitators all over the country.

If nothing else, visit the website to check out the conference mascot, Beanbag the Wombat. It was always going to be a big ask to beat Sandy the Numbat for cuteness, but the SA crew may have pulled it off.

DEC BASIC WILDLIFE REHABILITATION COURSES

There are no more Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Courses planned for 2009. We hope to have dates for the first half of 2010 by the time the next newsletter goes to print.

NEW ACCREDITATION PROCESS FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

Regular readers will recall that in our last newsletter, we had a Q&A article where Marg Buckland of DEC discussed some of the upcoming changes relating to Minimum Standards. One of those changes was the proposed upgrade of the Wildlife Act so that only people with appropriate licenses would legally be able to handle sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

In further news, a letter dated 3 August 2009 was circulated to registered volunteer wildlife rehabilitators outlining a new accreditation process which will presumably lead into the new licensing system that Marg flagged for us in the previous article.

The process is as follows (quoted verbatim from DEC documentation):

- (1) All applicants should have at least 18 months experience with an individual registered or accredited wildlife rehabilitator, accredited centre, or network before applying for accreditation application.
- (2) Attendance at the DEC Basic Course in Wildlife Rehabilitation should have taken place no longer than five years from the application date.
- (3) Provide copies of certificates for any attendance at relevant DEC approved wildlife courses.
- (4) Provide local government approval (usually through Shire or City – environment officer) for wildlife rehabilitation activity to take place at that address.
- (5) Provide landlord's approval for wildlife rehabilitation activity to take place at that address, if in rental or lease situation. (Each change of address would require another set of approvals and updated with DEC.)
- (6) Provide map, and photographs with measurements of property and facilities.
- (7) Letter from each individual mentor, or centre manager/Board on competency and including reference on the species handled.
- (8) If specialised fauna, a reference should also be provided from an accredited specialist group ie raptor, ringtail possum, black cockatoos etc.
- (9) Letter from each veterinary centre providing proof of attendance and ongoing relationship.
- (10) List of species trained to care for and knowledge of the stages of rehabilitation for those species.
- (11) Provide records of incoming wildlife, including history date of admittance, where it was found, medical treatment, outcomes.
- (12) Demonstrated knowledge of referral process to DEC for endangered and threatened species.
- (13) Knowledge of how the WILDCARE helpline works.
- (14) Disease control, prevention and quarantine.
- (15) Zoonosis, diseases and euthanasia methods.
- (16) Disposal methods of animal waste and deceased animals.
- (17) Release requirements including knowledge of release sites and the process with DEC.
- (18) Accreditation to be updated every three years to reflect upskilling process – through attendance at National Wildlife conference, advanced courses or special topics, veterinary training courses.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Network or Individual accreditation process:

- (1) Will reflect the facility review in the Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation in Western Australia 2008 document.
- (2) Documentation as suggested for accredited rehabilitation status.
- (3) Copies of the Centre, network or individual's policies regarding pest fauna, volunteer training, home rehabilitators', quarantine and hygiene regimes, release protocols.

DEC are inviting comment on the new process, with the comment period closing on 26 September 2009. A full copy of the original document is on line at the WAWRC website (www.wawrc.org.au).

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next General Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Raptors will be held on Saturday, 21st November 2009 at 45 Stringybark Drive, Forrestfield at 1:00 pm.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

If you need directions or have any queries, you can phone Noelene on (08) 9753 6567.

AROUND THE WEB – Member Blogs

- Views from the Mews (Marra on raptor rehab) <http://mews.raptor.id.au/>
- Amika's Dog Blog (Marra on dog training) <http://blog.raptor.id.au>
- The Owlery (Nancy on life in the bush) <http://grumpyghostowl.livejournal.com/>

Got a blog or web site you'd like to share with other members? Let us know.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL TERMS and HOLIDAYS

Term 3 2009

Tuesday 21 July – Friday 25 September

Break

Saturday 26 September – Monday 12 October 2009

Term 1 2010

Monday 1 February – Thursday 1 April 2010

Break

Friday 2 April – Sunday 18 April 2010

Term 4 2009

Tuesday 13 October – Thursday 17 December 2009

Break

Friday 18 December 2009 – Sunday 31 January 2010

Term 2 2010

Monday 19 April – Friday 2 July 2010

Break

Saturday 3 July – Sunday 18 July 2010

Information obtained from the Western Australian Education Department website.

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
- Caleb Delamare – Raptor Centre, Shenton Park Ph: 0412 622 176
- Yvonne Sitko – Western Australian Bird of Prey Centre, Herne Hill Ph: 0438 388 383
- John 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