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UPCOMING COURSES

Collaboration, Mentoring & Conflict Management. 1/6/2024

This is a NPWS- initiated and supplied course for Wildcare, LAOKO, WRSC, SONA, NARG etc.

If you are interested in going, please email me asap.

wombatbill@bigpond.com

NARG:

2023-24 Advanced Macropod Training Course

**Dr Rosemary Austen Prof Steve Garlick
Possumwood Wildlife**

**This course will be run over 6 modules.
All modules delivered via Zoom. Please
contact NARG to Book. Module one:**

Completed.

**Module two TBA, watch social media for
details.**

WildCare :

**Basic Reptile Course 2/6/2024 9.30am –
3pm Girl Guides Hall in Queanbeyan.**

**Basic Bird Course 7/7/2024 8.30am – 5pm
Venue TBA.**

**Basic Rescue Course 27/7/2024 9am – 5pm
Venue - Letchworth Community Hall
Queanbeyan**

**All courses offered by WildCare are
recognised by NARG. www.wildcare.com.au**

From The President:

Hi members and friends of NARG,
It is volunteer week this week so you all should give yourselves a pat on the back cos no one else will!!!

Training undertaken so far this year includes our beginners' course: Intro to Wildlife Rescue and Rehab as well as, more recently, Wombat Care for beginners and Pinky Wombat Care for more advanced carers. Several NARG members have, or are about to, undertake macropod and possum care courses with Wildcare. We are expecting to hear from Possumwood soon about part 2 of their Advanced Care for Macropod course.

The Curb Mange programme is continuing slowly. We currently have three land owners treating wombats either with a pole and scoop or by burrow flaps. I have been called upon to do a few around Majors Creek and beyond but they rarely get found again for follow-up treatments. I did manage 4 treatments on one fellow before he disappeared. The programme will extend to December but I am expecting to still have some of the product left by then, so we will continue until all the product is used up. We have had some success so far however, sadly, I had to euthanise two last week who had reached what I call "terminal stage" mange- one at Bendoura and the other on the top edge of the Araluen valley near Reidsdale/ Monga lane. We are currently treating one individual and one property in the Mongarlowe area and one individual at Harold's Cross. So, it is not a hugely widespread problem, but is awful for the victims when it does happen.

Councillor Mareeta Grundy proposed a motion for Wildlife MVA mitigation, aiming to investigate measures to reduce wildlife motor vehicle accidents. The motion includes both "active" and "passive" measures and improved verge maintenance. I spoke on behalf of NARG and Wildcare at the council meeting in Braidwood, and the motion passed unanimously. Funding these proposals will be a future challenge.

On another note, I am standing for council again in September, this time with the Mayor's group. I hope members in Palerang/Queanbeyan will support me. Councillor Ross MacDonald from Bywong, who has joined Wildcare, will also be running, so we may have two wildlife advocates on QPRC.

Wishing you all a quiet winter,
Bill Waterhouse
President, NARG

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Drones find koalas in natural Eurobodalla habitat after three-year absence

5 May 2024 | Sally Hopman

For the first time in about as many years, three koalas have just been spotted in their natural habitat in the Eurobodalla Shire.

Two were found in Kooraban National Park, in the Dignams Creek area, where it straddles the Eurobodalla and Bega shire border, with the third found in the Bodalla State Forest, not far from the new Eurobodalla dam.

All three were found by drones which were funded for the project through a Commonwealth Government grant.

For Keith Joliffe, delegate for the Coastwatchers Association which started the Eurobodalla Koala Project, the discovery of the three koalas was “a very exciting find”.

“We were lucky to get the grant which allowed drones to be used to survey the area,” he said.

“The first two the drones found were in an area of low-density koala population for some time, so we were very happy to find them there. It reinforces the work the south-east NSW strategy team is doing in Bega.”

Mr Joliffe said the drones first picked up the two as thermal images, after flying two patches of about 45 hectares to 60 hectares. They were able to fly in close enough to take photographs.

“They were all spotted high up in the tree canopy at night, with the photographs showing them looking at the light of the drones.”

The third marsupial was spotted in the southern part of the shire which, Mr Joliffe said, was in the past a known koala habitat.



Keith Joliffe, right, with fellow volunteer Charlie Bell at the launch of the Eurobodalla Koala Recovery Strategy at Broulee. Photo: Supplied.

Information about the find, including the drone reports, will be made available and shared with all the stakeholders, including National Parks, the local Aboriginal Land Council, Bega and Eurobodalla shires and the private property owners whose land is adjacent to the national parks. It will also form the basis of creating potential habitat models.

Mr Joliffe, a former teacher and Education Department official in Canberra, plans to retire from the koala group in September after a decade of volunteering. But he said the recent find gave him hope for the future of koalas.

“The job is not finished,” he said. “It needs a better than business as usual landscape.”

“They are still under a lot of pressure from constantly encroaching human activity as well as climate change,” he said. “That is why this finding is really important because it is the first time we have had enough money to get drones in.”

In the past, they had to rely on reports from community members and then volunteers would go out to search under trees for scats (koala poo). This would then be sent on to the Australian National University to confirm it came from koalas and not another native animal.



One of the koalas photographed by the drone in the Eurobodalla. Photo: Coastwatchers Association.

RECENT RESCUES

We had a particularly interesting rescue carried out by NARG member Steve Garlick, his volunteer back packers and myself. This was a young 20 kg kangaroo 3 meters down a mine shaft in Mongarlowe. We wrote it up on the Facebook page and Possumwood did too. Very successful!

Bill Waterhouse 31/03/2024



This beautiful Gang Gang was brought into care after being hit by a car. We have cared for her for a few weeks now and after flight practice in the aviary, she was released today. She had others calling out to her as she was released so I know she will be fine. It's a relief to know she'll be ok.

Jerabat Springs Animal Refuge
08/04/2024



These cute little babies were found by a member of the public in Braidwood and passed to be cared for until they are big enough to be returned to the wild. Surely would have ended up as somethings dinner otherwise. If your interested in caring for lizards or any other native animal please contact NARG.



HOMES AMONG THE GUM
TREES PROJECT

WANTED

The Native Animal Rescue Group (NARG) is looking for properties affected by the 2019/20 fires.

Our group has several nesting boxes for several different native species found in and around Braidwood.

We are currently encouraging land owners in and around Braidwood that were affected by the fires to register for these nesting boxes to repopulate these areas with native animals.

THE BOXES ARE FREE

NARG in conjunction with the ANU will be monitoring the success of repopulation via this project.

If you are interested in registering or would like more information, please email

nestingboxes@narg.com.au

Recent New Builds

Recent constructions include the substantial facility built at Tiandi to house gliders and possums (funded by a grant, as well as new member). Thanks to the many volunteers for assisting with the construction.

The assembly of two temporary enclosures to release wombats, one at Reidsdale and the other at Wyanbene. These now give us three active sites for releasing our long-term care wombats.

Also in construction is a large wombat care enclosure at Fox's Elbow. Construction was progressing well until the rain came, the trench may need to be re dig.

A new kangaroo enclosure may be soon on the list at Fox's Elbow.

Please contact NARG to volunteer.

Helping NARG

To become a NARG member, wildlife carer or if you are interested in any of the volunteer roles available please contact NARG via the website www.narg.asn.au ,via Facebook Native Animal

Fundraising Update

Helping out at the NARG stall at the Braidwood Ryrie Park markets is a perfect way to enjoy a relaxed Saturday and maybe pick yourself up a bargain.

Please contact Louise (markets@narg.asn.au) if you can spare some time to help serve at the stall.



The chocolate animal poo was a big hit over Easter. The plan is to buy some more. Julie has been helping me at the NARG Market stall, doing a fantastic job.

'WINTER WHOOP-UP FOR WILDLIFE' lunch- comedy- singers - charity auction Date TBA

You may have seen the State government praising its funding for the wildlife rescue sector on social media.

While there is substantial funding for Koalas, especially near Campbelltown, this funding is not fairly distributed and does not cover the whole sector. The government primarily funds our insurance and the Curb Mange program, with occasional small projects and emergency funding, like during the fires.

However, there is no support for ongoing costs such as food, vets, and fuel. This means we need to fundraise ourselves, and it is crucial that all members, especially those receiving financial assistance from NARG, contribute to these efforts

We are lucky to have new members keen to engage in fund raising and Ally and Inke have come up with a great plan for a big fund- raising event.

The 3-hour fund-raiser aims to be light-hearted; with Hamish Hudson as host, 2-3 lots of performers/singers, seated lunch, lucky door prizes and a charity auction.

Catering by Mey Delvion - main meal and dessert. Tea and coffee also included. GF, V, DF available. \$75 a ticket.

Time: 12pm for start at 12.30pm
Extra Lucky Door Tickets will available.

**Donations can be made by EFT to
Native Animal Rescue Group Public Fund BSB 633 000 Account No 176216414
Please use name as a reference and email treasurer@narg.asn.au for a receipt.**