

ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Cormorant Crescent, Peregrine Beach
October 13, 2013



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ABOUT BAT RESCUE INC.

Formed in June 2002, Bat Rescue Inc. is an incorporated, non-profit volunteer organization based on the Sunshine Coast. The membership also includes supporters from other areas of South-East Queensland, interstate and overseas.

Active (carer) members are permitted under DERM (Department of Environment & Resource Management) to care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. Bat rehabilitation is a unique branch of wildlife caring as vaccination against Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABL) is required. Volunteers respond to large numbers of rescue emergencies involving bats which minimizes the risk of exposure to ABL within the community.

Members of Bat Rescue Inc. work closely with vaccinated veterinarians who have an interest in bats and provide invaluable support for our work.

Bat Rescue Inc. is dedicated to:

- *Providing education and information to the general public*
- *Active conservation of bats and their habitat*
- *The promotion of bats as an important part of our ecology*
- *The rehabilitation and release of bats back to the wild*

Management Committee 2012/13

ELECTED OFFICE-BEARERS

President	Sylvia Hood
Secretary	Danielle Dedman
Treasurer	Carmel Givens

OTHER POSITIONS

Membership Secretary	Sammy Ringer
Minute Secretary	Danielle Dedman
Sponsorship Secretary	Carmel Givens
Website Administration	Sammy Ringer
Grants Officer	Jennifer Singfield



President's Report



Bat Rescue Inc has had a very busy year with a huge influx of orphans and rehabs. Every year when I compile the statistics, it amazes me how different our workload can be from year to year. We also managed to conduct two sausage sizzles to top up our funds which helps us fund the creche and release program and support our busy carers.

Again we called upon Jan Davey in Noosa, for banding and release of our handraised orphans and Sammy Ringer for our bat creche. So a big thank you to Jan and Sammy for taking the orphans into their capable hands for the final phase of preparation for their survival in the wild.

This year has seen the devastating result of the change in State Government leadership. Legislation has been overturned by the previous Labour Government and now shooting flying-foxes has been legalised for orchardists through the damage mitigation permit process. Dispersals of colonies can be done with no permit at all. Test cases around the state have shown that the EPBC act gives little protection for threatened species such as the Grey-headed flying-fox as dispersals requiring referral to the EPBC act for a permit have in all cases, been granted. Flying-foxes are clearly at risk under Premier Campbell Newman who continues to modify legislation and weaken laws that directly impact their survival. The new facebook page "Campbell Newman's Bat Shame" and "Dont Shoot Bats" has support both nationally and internationally and continues to gain more support as the war on bats unfolds. I do wonder why he has such a hatred for this native animal, and how far he is willing to push his agenda, their survival really does hang in the balance.

Our Bat Rescue Inc facebook group now has 74 members, and continues to gain interest . Thanks to Megan Vella for looking after this group and accepting members, monitoring content etc. The Bat Rescue Inc website receives many queries and thanks to Sammy Ringer who attends to many of these and keeps the website current.

This year the Frosty Fruit Bat cool room was hired out again and continues to earn its keep to cover insurance and registration costs. Thanks to Carmel and Ridley this major piece of equipment is cared for and maintained to a standard that makes it a viable rental income for Bat Rescue. Our sponsorship program continues to draw interest and we see some regulars returning to support another orphan or adult. Thanks to Carmel who manages this program and gives each sponsor the personal attention when they choose to sponsor an orphan following it right through to release.

Thanks to Lyn Boston our displays and catering continues to surpass all expectations, and anyone who has attended a workshop or AGM will know Lyn's attention to detail is second to none! Thanks to Danielle who will be teat-making again this year in time for orphan season, so we will have them in stock for carers.

I would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers, our supporters, sponsors and donors who have helped us continue to do our work throughout the year.

Sylvia Hood
PRESIDENT

Treasurer's Report



This year Bat Rescue managed to conduct two sausage sizzles that raised a gross income of \$1475.35. The net profit was \$941.47. We are very grateful to all those members that assisted us in making those fundraisers a success.

Our chocolate sales continue to do well thanks to our Chocolate fundraising star Megan Vella, raising a gross income of \$1141.00 for the year. The net profit was \$661.05.

Our sponsorships were up again on the previous year totalling \$1003.26. This is clear profit less some printing and postage. The donations this year totalled \$1731.40 which is a significant increase over last year, thanks to the cool room being loaned out to organisations who donate funds in return. Membership fees brought in a total of \$505 which was an increase from last year of \$105. There was no income from workshops this year as only one was held, however we plan more for next year. Merchandise sales from events totalled \$281.20, however as these are mostly educational events we don't expect this to be a major revenue stream.

The cost of bat food and high protein supplement was over \$1000 more than last year due to the increase in rehabs and orphans coming into care. High Protein Supplement continues to be provided for free to all those active members who choose to operate under the Bat Rescue Inc permit.

As at June 30, 2013 our financial position is \$3736.45 in cash and stock (around \$500 increase over last year) and a further \$32858.47 in plant and equipment. As a non-profit organization, we have enough funds to cover our minimal running costs and with ongoing fundraising efforts we can continue to provide a service that supports the welfare and conservation of bats.

Carmel Givens
TREASURER



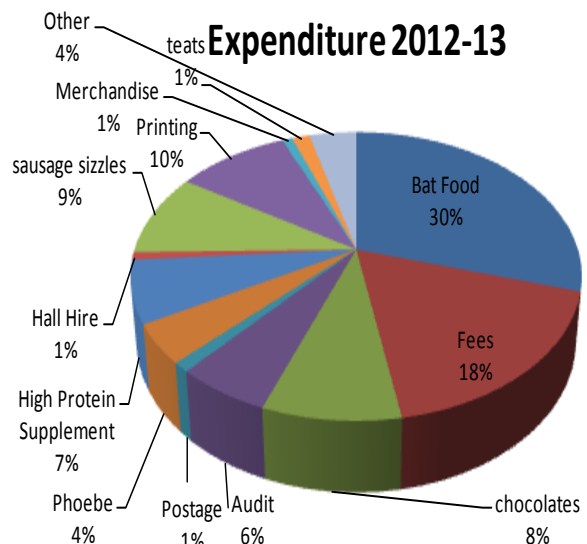
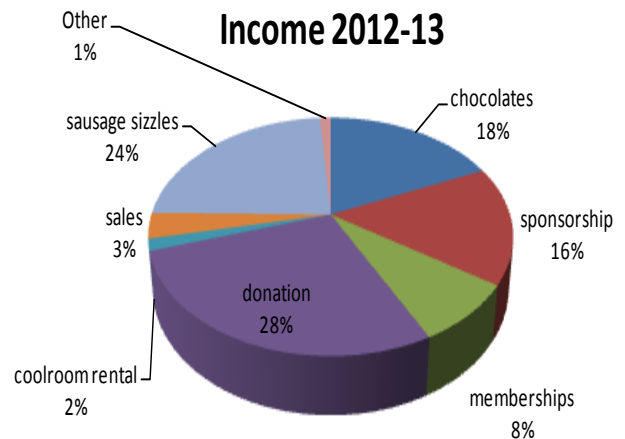
Financial Report 2012-13

Opening Bank Balances	\$ 2,766.35
Income	
chocolates	\$ 1,141.00
sponsorship	\$ 1,003.26
memberships	\$ 505.00
donation	\$ 1,731.40
coolroom rental	\$ 100.00
sales	\$ 218.20
sausage sizzles	\$ 1,475.35
Other	\$ 70.92
Total	\$ 6,245.13

Expenditure	
Bat Food	\$ 1,697.00
Fees	\$ 1,012.97
chocolates	\$ 479.95
Audit	\$ 330.00
Postage	\$ 60.10
Phoebe	\$ 250.00
High Protein Supplement	\$ 399.75
Hall Hire	\$ 50.00
sausage sizzles	\$ 533.88
Printing	\$ 548.20
Merchandise	\$ 50.00
teats	\$ 86.03
Other	\$ 231.11
Total	\$ 5,728.99

Closing Bank Balances	\$ 3,282.49
Paypal Account	\$ 9.46
Cash on Hand	\$ 20.00
Stock	\$ 424.50
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 3,736.45

FIXED ASSETS	
Plant and Equipment	\$ 32,858.47
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 36,594.92



ACHIEVEMENTS 2012/2013

Membership

As at the end of the financial year there were a total of 60 members including active carers, support members and complimentary members(sponsors and donors). Our support membership also continues to grow through our Bat Rescue Inc Facebook group with 74 members. Phoebe has her very own Facebook page too, and is updated when she attends events or has something informative to share.

Grants

There have been no grants received this financial year.

Newsletters

Unfortunately there has been no new editions of *Night Wings*, Bat Rescue's newsletter this year. Sammy Ringer has kindly distributed a few e-bulletins this year to keep members and supporters in the loop. We hope to get a bulletin out after the AGM to let members know what is happening, and hope to resume production of *Night Wings* in the new financial year.



Website

The Bat Rescue website is now maintained by Sammy Ringer. Hosting continues to be sponsored by Brett Warner.

Publicity & Campaigns

The Grey Cross Event

The Grey Cross campaign was supported by dozens of wildlife and animal welfare organisations in Australia and internationally. On 3-4 November, 2012 inverted grey crosses mysteriously appeared in multiple locations across eastern Australia culminating in a rally outside Parliament House in Brisbane.

The inverted crosses symbolise the plight of thousands of flying-foxes subject to government-sanctioned shooting in Queensland and NSW.

Both governments issue permits to kill flying-foxes despite the acknowledged cruelty of shooting, the availability of non-lethal methods of crop protection and the vulnerability of flying-foxes to decline, with two species threatened.

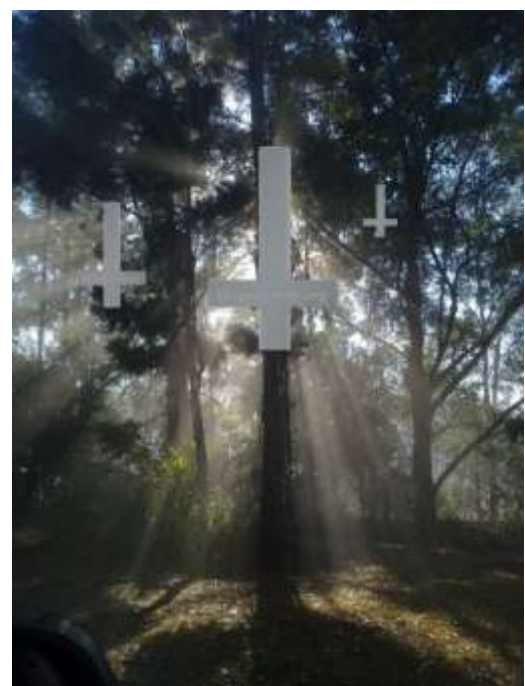


The Queensland Government will allow more than 10,000 to be shot over the next year and the NSW Government issues licences for several hundred to a thousand. NSW intends to phase most shooting out by 2014.

The symbolism of the inverted grey cross:

- crosses commemorate the dead
- Inverted crosses recognise that flying-foxes hang upside-down
- Grey refers to Grey-headed flying-foxes, one of the two threatened species subject to shooting

This campaign coincided with our new carer training, so was a perfect opportunity to join the campaign and support the cause. The hall and grounds were decorated with grey crosses of all sizes, and the Sunshine Coast Daily picked up our story and published an article. We also receive continued support from publications such as the Hinterland Times and the Nambour Weekly.



Cover Story in the Hinterland Times

In March this year, our Maleny carers took advantage of creche time and managed to obtain a cover story on flying-foxes (see cover on our cover). The photo opportunities were perfect with the creche cage full of juveniles. Creche time is always very busy with feeding, weighing, measuring etc etc so it was fantastic that our dedicated team were able to spare some time to a much needed good news story. See the 2 page spread below and some photos from creche 2013 - chopping, feeding, measuring.



IN RECENT TIMES the beleaguered flying fox has received bad press. Members of the very active Bat Rescue group on the Hinterland say it's partly to do with the historical image of the bat – the blood-sucking vampire bat of Dracula, and myths down the ages symbolising evil and witchcraft.

However, the recent tragic death of the eight-year-old boy from north Queensland from Rossman has further cast a shadow over the flying fox.

This is despite the fact that only three people have died from lyssavirus since 1956. During the same period more than 20 people have died from eastern brown snake bites. So is the fear of bats justified?

Hinterland Times editor, Michael Barry visited the Bat Rescue team on the range to get another side of the story.

The Flying Fox needs Friends ...

HAVE TO SAY, when you get up close to a bunch of hanging bats it's very hard not to be warmed by their calm faces and soft waxy eyes.

Carol Green is one of the organisers of Bat Rescue. She and Sammie Ringer took me inside a large, red-roofed cage in which up to 30 bats were hanging and swivelling curiously to watch me. Apart from declaring "These flying foxes 'spongers' are had a more serious message to pass on."

"I've allowed the culling of flying foxes to be used to justify the culling of our hardwood forests."

Carol said that flying foxes eat the fruit, nectar or flowers of native trees and these plants rely on the bats to seed dispersal and pollination. In fact, flying foxes are the predominant pollinators of Southern Queensland's native rainforests.

When I raised the issue of the deadly lyssavirus, the Bat Rescue ladies were quick to say they had been gross over reaction since the first person died of the virus in 1966. There are two rare diseases associated with flying foxes that have recently gained a high profile and media attention, lyssavirus and Hendra virus. There is no evidence that either can be caught from flying foxes flying overhead or breeding or roosting in a garden or property.

In 1966 and 1967, there were two human deaths in Australia from the newly discovered Australian bat lyssavirus. In both cases, the victims were persons involved in the rehabilitation of flying foxes.

Lyssavirus is a form of rabies found in less than 1% of healthy bats that can only be contracted when infected bat saliva comes in contact with an open wound, a scratch or bite or with human mucous membranes

(eyes, nose, mouth). Vaccines are currently available. The fear of bats is not helped by the continuing to a war campaign making people think that all flying foxes are particularly air virus who carriers.

The recent report that a young boy in north Queensland had contracted a parasite from a flying fox given indeed MP Bob Katter the opportunity to call upon the Queensland government to allow the culling of bats.

"In 2011 we have days but positive. In 2012 we had losses but positive. We have continually pushed the Government for bat culling and it still hasn't happened. This is what we need to do now."

The response from the RSPCA was more measured. "This is the third case of lyssavirus in Australian history and while this does not take away the threat to young



ill, bats are not the enemy and we need to continue to provide good information."

Sammie Ringer said that lyssavirus has become the focus of the decade for researchers looking for government dollars. The flying fox has been categorically rejected as the culprit. Although the flying fox carries and breeds associated with lyssavirus, respected local scientists and bat expert Dr Ian Hall points out that:

"Laboratory tests have not been able to replicate bat-to-human transmission of lyssavirus. Research by Queensland does not carry out tests on bats and cats in a laboratory situation."

There is no denying that flying foxes have the debated capacity from time to time, anguishing farmers who don't understand why they are protected. Last year the Queensland Government reinstated a small number of permits so that farmers could shoot bats on their properties.

The members of Bat Rescue Inc. are horrified that farmers can shoot flying foxes. They are lobbying for the removal of permits which will protect flying foxes from getting trapped.

Much of the work of the Hinterland Bat Rescue group is diversifying flying foxes from netting and banded with harness. They even have emergency workers on site rescuing flying foxes from power lines and contacting Bat Rescue.

Once the bats are at the Bat Rescue rehabilitation centre in Maleny they are fed and cared for, before being released back into the wild. "I care for bats and possums too," says Sammie Ringer. "I love them all but none of them have the bat's ability to creep into the heart of the case."

They're intelligent and inquisitive. Their anatomy is beautifully suited for their role as forest pollinators – and they have a language that ranges from "Tee ball, thank you and I want to sleep now" (a sort of purring sound) to "I want a nuzzle and I WANT MORE" (a very high pitched squeal).

If you come across a flying fox trapped in a fence or obstructed in distress, please do not touch it, contact Bat Rescue (PH: 5441 1300 (24 hours), 7 days) or 1300 264 625 (RSPCA Wildlife 24 hour hotline).

Previous page:
Bat Rescue team from left:
Sammie Ringer, Kathy
Lawrence, Carol Green,
and Zoe Jang
Above left: Zoe Jang is in
Bat Rescue
Above: Mother and
daughter - Sammie and Sarah
at the Maleny-Hinterland
Bat Rescue Rehabilitation
Centre



Displays



Top Left/right: World Environment Day-USC 9th June 2013 - Zoe educating the next generation with Phoebe enjoying the attention.

Bottom left Woodford Tree Planting Event 4th May 2013

Bottom right PEW Talk



Fundraising

Two successful sizzles were held in this financial year at Officeworks, Maroochydore. It is always a great way to raise needed funds in a painless one day event such as a sizzle. We have found these very manageable and also a bit of fun too. No one can resist the smell of a BBQ after a spot of shopping!



Sponsorship & Donations

Our sincere appreciation to the following sponsors and donors, including commercial sponsors and regular private contributors:

*Joanne Adams
Lyn Boston
Morag Bruce
Sautec
Barry Trail
Pamela Bates
Kylie-Ann Horton
Maple Street Co-op*

*Upfront Club
Jan McKenzie
Alexis Mulhern
Brett Warner (Figjam Design)
Dani Ostojic
Jill Symon
Janelle Charmer
Georgie Bull*



Training

4th November 2012 *Baby Bat Boot Camp*



Active Conservation of Bats & Their Habitat

This year there have been a number of dispersals around South-East QLD and some of our members have attended them to observe, document and film if possible. Sammy Ringer attended the Pittsworth dispersal, and with the threat of dispersals in our own back yard here on the Sunshine Coast there may be more local issues in the new year.

The LNP State Government not only legalised the shooting of flying-foxes in their first year of government, they also removed the application process for a damage mitigation permit to disperse flying-fox colonies. When few local councils took up the option to disperse Premier Campbell Newman was threatening to bring in the "bat squad" and do it on their behalf if they didn't act to disperse colonies.

On the 20th June 2013 the Sunshine Coast Council applied to the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for permission to carry out a dispersal in the Cassia Wildlife Corridor in Coolumb. This is due to the fact that Grey-headed flying-foxes are threatened and the subject of a draft recovery plan under the EPBC Act. Bat Rescue Inc along with other organisations wrote a submission to this referral outlining the reasons why a permit should not be issued. Unfortunately the permit was issued, however due to a number of pregnant females observed in the camp, the dispersal was cancelled at the last minute. One other camp is destined to be put under the same pressure in Maroochydore at the Stella Maris Catholic School. Environment Levy funds will be used for the dispersal which has angered residents, as it is not how the funds were intended to be used. Only a small number of residents have complained and lobbied their Council representatives, but the squeaky wheel won in the end.

Rescue Report 2012-2013

Orphans Released

Table 1 – Summary of orphans raised

Species	Female	Male	Total
Grey-headed	5	6	11
Black	10	13	23
Total	15	19	34

Table 2 – Summary of orphans by the reason for entering care

Reason in Care	Black	Grey-headed	Total
Barbed Wire orphan	1	4	5
Found Abandoned	8	1	9
Electrocution orphan	2	1	3
Dog Attack	1		1
Cat Attack	1		1
Bird Netting	1		1
Unknown	9	5	14
Total	23	11	34

Megachiroptera Summary

SPECIES	Totals
Black	45
Grey-headed	21
Little Red	7
Totals	73

Outcome	Totals
Released	47
Died	5
Euthanased	6
Escaped	1
Transferred	13
In Care	1
Totals	73

REASON	Totals
Barbed wire	27
Barbed wire orphan	1
Found abandoned/on ground	12
Electrocution orphan	3
Bird Netting	12
Orphaned(unknown)	10
Dog attack	1
Cat Attack	1
Unknown	6
Totals	73

Microchiroptera Summary

Outcome	Cat attack	Found on Ground	Pool/Dam	Unknown	Totals
Released	2	1			3
Died					
Transferred		3	1	1	5
Total	2	4	1	1	8

APPENDICES

Equipment as at 30/6/13

Note:all equipment located on Sunshine Coast

BAT RESCUE INC GOLD COAST

EQUIPMENT REGISTER - as at 30/6/13

Item	Year	Funding Source	Cost
DISPLAY EQUIPMENT			
Folding chairs (green stripes)	2006	Donated by Nadine Read	0.00
Display Gazebo (green stripes)	2005	Cascades Grant	40.00
Display Gazebo (folding, black)	2007	VSEG Grant	188.75
Orange tablecloths	2007	WPSQ BBC Grant	34.00
Display Posters (laminated A1 size)	2006	BRGC funded	50.00
Barbed wire/netting mockup with toy bat	2007	Donated by Sharon & Vicki	0.00
Folding trolley	2007	VSEG Grant	64.00
Plastic Storage tubs (merchandise)	2007	BRGC funded	40.00
Folding display tables	2007	WPSQ BBC Grant	80.00
Vinyl banner	2005	Cascades Grant	500.00
Xmas tree stand (banner holder)	2007	Cascades Grant	39.99
Teardrop banner	2007	VSEG Grant	333.00
Rehab/display cage	2007	Cascades Grant	185.95
Metal cage barrier	2007	VSEG Grant	100.00
Display cage batty cover	2008	BRGC funded	20.00
MISC. EQUIPMENT			
Bat-shaped cookie cutters	2009	BRGC funded	46.00
Rescue Poles	2009	BBC Grant	353.60
Rescue Poles (long, made in-house)	2009	BBC Grant	250.00
Dream Machine (gas chamber)	2008	Bat Rescue group funds	231.00
LOAN EQUIPMENT - ORPHANS			
Digital Calipers (@\$19.99 ea)	2007	BBC Grant	199.90
(B3)Breville Heatpad	2006	Cascades Grant	44.00
(B2) Digital Thermometer	2006	Cascades Grant	30.00
(B4) Digital Scales	2007	BRGC funded	29.99
Cage cover (yellow checks with bees)	2006	Donated by Nadine Read	0.00
Orphan Loan Kit A			
(A3) Breville Heatpad	2006	Cascades Grant	44.00
(A2) Digital thermometer	2006	Cascades Grant	30.00
(A4) Digital Scales	2006	Cascades Grant	44.99
(A1) Cat Carry cage (white base)	2005	Donated by Suzy Fedyk	0.00
Cage cover (yellow checks with bees)	2006	Donated by Nadine Read	0.00

\$ 2,979.17



BAT RESCUE INC SUNSHINE COAST
EQUIPMENT REGISTER - as at 30/6/13

Educational Display Items

Used for displaying posters and articles and pictures

	UNITS	TOTAL
Spyder Display Systems	1	\$1,386.00
BlackBoard&chalk	1	\$36.98
Trestle table	1	\$99.00
Gazebo	1	\$29.49
SUBTOTAL		\$1,551.47

New Carer's Starter Kits (5 items of each)

To lend out to new carers during their first year

Cages-Type C	5	\$205.50
Vernier Calipers	5	\$66.00
Digital Calipers	5	\$182.95
Welding Gloves	5	\$47.81
Temp Alert Thermometers	5	\$137.15
Digital Scales	5	\$225.00
Heat Pads	5	\$250.00
Clothes Airers	5	\$43.05
SUBTOTAL		\$1,157.46

Other Rescue equipment

Mini bolt cutters 200mm	2	\$85.00
Calipers 200m	2	\$85.60
Multifold Ladder	2	\$190.00
Microbat Digital scales	2	\$199.90
In/out thermometers	2	\$29.97
Microbat Shadehouse	1	\$69.99
Plastic Carry baskets	2	\$19.90
Microbat Release Boxes	3	\$150.00
Canvas carry bags	2	\$55.00
SUBTOTAL		\$885.36

Release Aviary

9M Long, 2.1M High, 2.4M Wide	1	\$1,860.11
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Items purchased 2004-05

Microbat nest boxes	6	\$	300.00
Rehab Cages (small)	3	\$	405.00
Rehab Cages (medium)	2	\$	310.00
Stainless Steel bowls(0.3L)	10	\$	35.00
Stainless Steel bowls(0.6L)	10	\$	49.50
Stainless Steel bowls(0.9L)	20	\$	119.00
Storage Shed	1	\$	450.00
Storage Shed (slab&installation)	1	\$	350.00
Binoculars	4	\$	356.00
ABL vaccinations	4	\$	996.27
Digital Camera & accessories	1	\$	1,067.37
SUBTOTAL		\$	4,438.14

Funding Source:Gambling Community Benefit Fund

Items purchased 2005-06

Teat moulds	1 set	\$	50.00
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Items purchased 2006-07

VSEG Grant tear dropbanners	1	\$	333.00
VSEG Grant -straps for trolleys	1	\$	6.50
VSEG Grant-Gazebo	1	\$	188.75
VSEG Grant-Trolleys	1	\$	64.98
VSEG Grant-Banner	1	\$	284.90
Storage Containers-release	3	\$	50.31
water bottles	1	\$	97.90
feeders	1	\$	247.56
Fridge	1	\$	40.00
Bands and bottles	1	\$	126.40
Equipment-scales	1	\$	26.22
GCBF Release cage	1		3994.51
SUBTOTAL		\$	5,511.03

Items purchased 2007-08

Mobile Cool Room	1	\$	12,217.00
Funding Source:Gambling Community Benefit Fund			
Sausage Sizzle Equipment		\$	200.00

Items purchased in 2008-09

Locks for release cage			\$33.90
Hardware for release cage			\$24.15
Coolroom accessories(tarp, locks etc)			\$161.89
Thermometers	10		\$93.79

Artworks

David Conolan Painting	1	\$	700.00
Sheila Tanna Paintings	1	\$	200.00
Sue Richardson Painting	1	\$	295.00

Transport Boxes WPSQ Grant 2010	4		\$500
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GRAND TOTAL		\$	29,879.30
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Audited Financial Statements