

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015



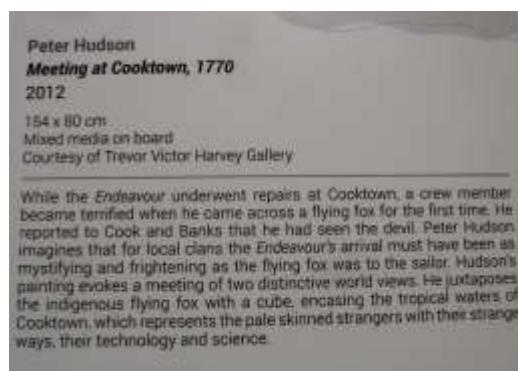
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Cormorant Crescent, Peregian Beach
September 27, 2015

CONTENTS

About Bat Rescue Inc.	2
President's Report	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Financial Report	5
Achievements for 2014/15	
Membership	6
Grants	6
Newsletters	6
Website & Online Records	6
Displays	6
Submissions	7
Fundraising	10
Sponsorship & Donations	10
Training	10
Rescue & Release Report	11
Appendices	
About East Coast Encounters by Pete Hudson	12
Equipment Inventories	13
Audited Financial Statements	14

Front Cover is a painting by Pete Hudson from East Coast Encounters



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 2014/15

ELECTED OFFICE-BEARERS

President	Sylvia Hood
Secretary	Sylvia Hood
Treasurer	Carmel Givens
Minute Secretary	Sammy Ringer

OTHER POSITIONS

Membership Secretary/Newsletter/Website Admin– Sammy Ringer
Website Admin backup-Carmel Givens
Sponsorship Secretary/Care Coordinator-Carmel Given
Display Coordinator(fauna caterer) – Lyn Boston
Fundraising officer-Sammy Ringer
Chocolate Fundraising coordination/ Training Co-ordinator-Megan Vella



Bat Rescue Inc is proudly supported by the Sunshine Coast Council through the Environment Levy Partnership Grants Program.

President's Report

This financial year has been the best for Bat Rescue for a couple of reasons. Firstly we received a \$10,000 Environment Levy Partnership Grant from the Sunshine Coast Council that will be issued to us for another two years. Secondly we did not have to contend with another major heat stress event. Luckily the Palmwoods camp moved to another location and there were minimal casualties, but we did not experience the influx we had in the previous year. Our Brisbane members were able to take in some heat stress orphans from Caboolture which eased the pressure off carers in that area.

There has been follow up dispersals undertaken this year in Coolum, and it seems apparent that despite Council's best efforts the camp in Cassia Wildlife Corridor is determined to hang in there or in the surrounding area. Council has appointed a Flying-Fox Management Officer for a three year period, Raeleen Draper so we will soon learn of the future plans and projects for protecting our local Flying-fox populations. Kate Hofmeister(nee Winter) will still be involved and working proactively in wildlife management so we are very fortunate to have these committed and knowledgeable Council staff to work with.

We continue to offer workshops to our members each year and encourage members to refresh their knowledge by attending advance rehabilitation, raising orphans, or specific topics such as caring for microbats or mothers and babies. We learn new methods and techniques from other carers and groups, and having our care coordinator Carmel Givens to mentor and advise is essential to ensure consistency and good outcomes for animals in our care. When we hear of worthwhile workshops run by others we also alert our members who might be interested in attending.

It is more important than ever to be diligent with our record keeping as our funding is directly related. We are required to provide detailed records of our activity in order to ensure we continue to receive our grant. If anyone has any problems with the online records then help is only a phone call away to Carmel, Sammy or myself who are system administrators.

Our major submission this year in response to the Draft EPBC Policy Statement on the Management of Grey-head and Spectacled Flying-foxes(see full response in report) was quite an important body of work to prepare as this was threatening to undermine the protection given to these vulnerable species in relation to the management of Flying-foxes and in particular the dispersal of camps. We all remember how the former State Government tried to unravel as much green tape as they could find when it came to disturbing urban flying-fox camps so it was with a great sigh of relief when the former leader's political career came to an abrupt end this year.

A big thank you to Lyn Boston for coordinating our displays, catering for workshops and looking after Phoebe our display bat who is enjoying life at "La Casa Del Phoebe" in Peregian.(photo right)

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

Sylvia Hood
PRESIDENT



Treasurer's Report



Last year, we were in dire need of emergency funding from Sunshine Coast Council due to the Heat Stress Event and this year with our \$10,000 Environment Levy Partnership Grant from Council we could finally go about our business without the worry of how to stay afloat.

We have even managed to update some of our equipment with new starter kits, equipment for future heat stress events: carry baskets, vet supplies and sprayer bottles and even a humidicrib for very young orphans or preemies that come into care. It is a relief to know that we don't have to conduct sausage sizzles to pay for creche and release food, and that we can supply our members with specialised flying-fox milk and high protein supplement. It relieves some of the financial burden on our volunteers who put in hours upon hours of work and deserve some assistance whilst we have the financial support from Council.

It has always been our philosophy that any moneys granted, donated or earned should be spent and not squirreled away, however our account was so low at the beginning of this year we have been a little more careful and finished the year off with a small surplus of just under \$3800. We will donate some money to another worthwhile cause like we did this last year by sending high protein supplement to a flood affected area just north of us. It is very important to stay in touch with our networks of wildlife carers and when we hear of hardships or disasters we need to respond by sharing some of our resources.

Likewise if any members are struggling with the financial burden of caring or rescuing, we are here to help and can offer assistance when requested but if we don't know we cannot help. Some of our tireless rescuers have received reimbursement for fuel this year, and whilst we cannot pay for everyone's mileage we are willing to assist where it is genuinely required in times of hardship.

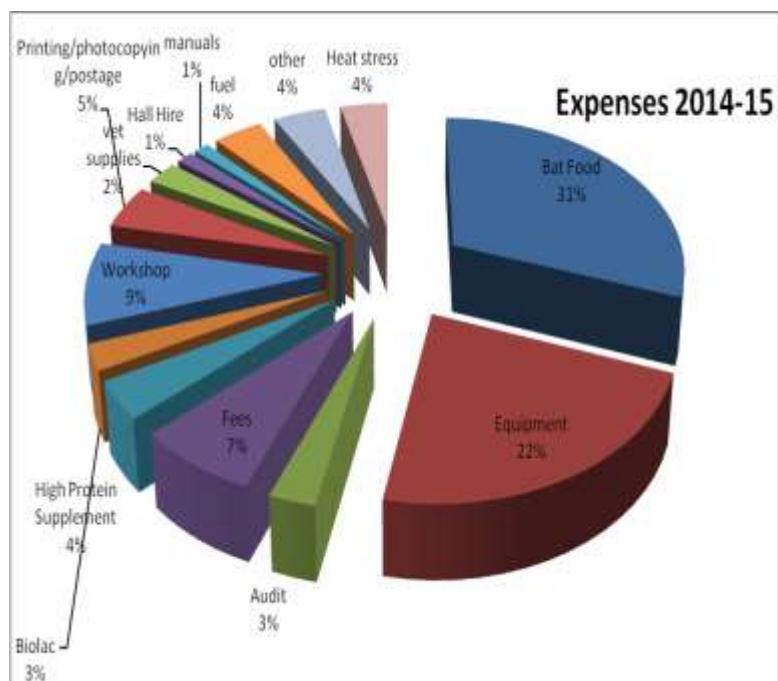
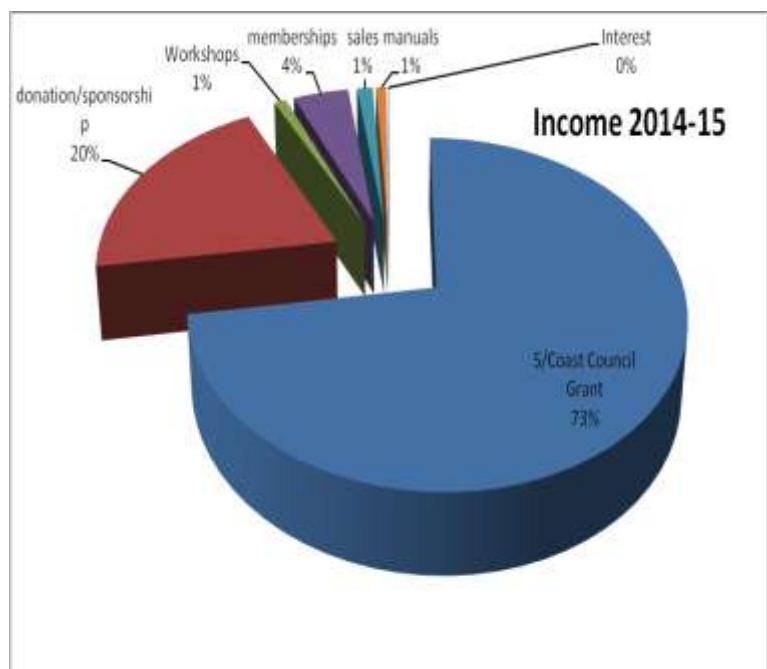
Some of our members recently attended an art exhibition by a local, Pete Hudson. One of the paintings from the book *East Coast Encounters* features on our front cover(reproduced with permission) as it is such an inspirational work. You can find out more about this book in the appendix, it is worth a look!

Another bat season is nearly upon us so dust off the heat pads and carry cages and pack your rescue kits!

Carmel Givens
TREASURER

Financial Report 2014/15

Opening Bank Balances	\$ 2,032.64
Income	
S/Coast Council Grant	\$ 10,000.00
donation/sponsorship	\$ 2,753.37
Workshops	\$ 130.00
memberships	\$ 600.00
sales	\$ 171.30
manuals	\$ 110.00
Interest	\$ 17.67
	\$ 13,782.34
Expenditure	
Bat Food	\$ 3,693.68
Equipment	\$ 2,720.36
Audit	\$ 330.00
Fees	\$ 875.20
High Protein Supplement	\$ 475.75
Biolac	\$ 325.06
Workshop	\$ 1,037.58
Printing/photocopying/p	\$ 555.67
vet supplies	\$ 302.81
Hall Hire	\$ 157.50
manuals	\$ 150.00
fuel	\$ 476.90
other	\$ 510.00
Heat stress	\$ 461.10
	\$ 12,071.61
Closing Bank Balances	\$ 3,743.37
Paypl account	\$ 9.46
Cash on hand	\$ 20.00
Stock	\$ 405.55
Total Current Assets	\$ 4,178.38
Total Fixed Assets	
Less liabilities	
Plant and Equipment	\$ 32,858.47
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 37,036.85



ACHIEVEMENTS 2014/15

Membership

As at the end of the financial year there were a total of 66 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 page and Phoebe's own page of course.

Grants

Environment Levy Partnership Grant - \$10,000 for three years

Newsletters

Unfortunately there has been no editions of Bat Rescue's newsletter this year. We hope to get a bulletin out after the AGM to let members know what is happening, and hope to re-launch an e-newsletter as soon as volunteer steps forward who would like the job!



Website

The Bat Rescue website is now maintained by Sammy Ringer with Carmel Givens as a backup administrator. Hosting continues to be sponsored by Brett Warner.

Displays and Events



Palmwoods community information forum 30/7/14
World Environment Day-8/6/2015(left)

River School Talk - 2/12/2014

Flying-fox Awareness night-27/10/14

Australasian Bat Night-18/4/2015



Submissions

Re: DRAFT EPBC Act Policy Statement: Camp Management Guidelines for the Grey-headed and Spectacled Flying-fox.

Bat Rescue Inc. is an incorporated, non-profit volunteer organisation 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

On behalf of our organisation, we are fundamentally opposed to the introduction of this policy for the management of flying-fox camps. We feel as an organisation that dispersal of camps in particular, have had limited success in the past, and this new policy offers camps no protection at all from a dispersal action which is in fact a threatening process that poses a risk to the recovery of the Grey headed and Spectacled Flying-foxes.

In both Recovery Plans for these species, loss of roosting habitat was identified as a high priority threat and conflict with humans a medium priority threat. In conducting dispersals you are effectively reducing available roosting habitat by attempting to exclude them from the sites specifically chosen and favoured by the species. In the Draft Recovery Plan for the Grey headed Flying-fox(GHFF) it also states that "efforts to break the fidelity of GHFF to specific camps have generally been unsuccessful".

The Draft EPBC Act Policy Statement reduces protection of two vulnerable species by:

1. Allowing a dispersal of any flying-fox camp regardless of the conservation status of the animals.
2. Allowing a "self-assessment" process for those camps that are deemed "Nationally significant" and as long as best practice mitigation is used the camp may be dispersed while a vulnerable species is *in situ*.
3. Describing best practice mitigation vaguely in 6 dot points, lacking significant detail in the points such as "physical" disturbance. No reference material is sourced to validate this methodology.
4. Allowing routine camp management to be conducted near any camp with very loose guidelines as to the nature of these activities with no reference material sourced to validate the activities.
5. Defining "Nationally Significant Camps" without the best current data available or understanding of the local movement of flying-fox populations amongst camps
6. Offering no additional protection from dispersal actions at Nationally Significant Camps that are critical roosting habitat for two vulnerable species and should be "No Go Zones".
7. Failing to acknowledge that there is no scientific evidence to suggest camp dispersal is a valid methodology of managing human and flying-fox conflict.

The process flowchart to assist in decision making regarding the requirement for a referral is vague and indecisive. At all decision points except the last, it states that "REFERRAL MAY NOT BE REQUIRED". It is not clear at what point does the authority administering potentially threatening activities know whether or not to refer their action plans under the EPBC Act. It implies that an authority must "self-assess" their proposed action which will be applied inconsistently across the States, Territories and Local Government jurisdictions.

The definition of a nationally significant camp is fundamentally flawed. This should be at best a guideline or subject to regular review, as it is well known that camps shift from time to time to nearby locations and so both locations should be listed as significant camp alternatives. Furthermore, identifying a camp site as "Nationally Significant" and then allowing a dispersal to take place, thereby attempting to remove flying-foxes from it, seems contradictory.

In the Draft Recovery Plan for GHFF under Roosting Habitat critical to survival it states:

"On the basis of current knowledge, roosting habitat that meets at least one of the following criteria can be explicitly identified as habitat critical to survival, or essential habitat, for Grey-headed Flying-foxes. Roosting habitat that:

1. is used as a camp either continuously or seasonally in > 50% of years
2. has been used as a camp at least once in 10 years (beginning in 1995) and is known to have contained > 10 000 individuals, unless such habitat has been used only as a temporary refuge, and the use has been of limited duration (i.e. in the order of days rather than weeks or months)
3. has been used as a camp at least once in 10 years (beginning in 1995) and is known to have contained > 2 500 individuals, including reproductive females during the final stages of pregnancy, during lactation, or during the period of conception (i.e. September to May)."

This policy therefore does not align to the recovery plan for this species and is possibly missing substantial numbers of camps that should be classified as nationally significant. In our local area alone there are at least four camps that meet this criteria based on routine monitoring programs undertaken by Sunshine Coast Council, and include camps located at: **Palmwoods, Landsborough, Maroochydore, and Mooloolaba**. This is in just one Local Government jurisdiction so it is likely there are many more camps that have been overlooked.

In the EPBC Act 1999 the significant impact criteria for **Vulnerable Species** is defined as follows:

"An action is likely to have a significant impact on a vulnerable species if there is a real chance or possibility that it will:

- lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population of a species
- reduce the area of occupancy of an important population
- *fragment an existing important population into two or more populations*
- *adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species*
- *disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population*
- *modify, destroy, remove or isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline*
- result in invasive species that are harmful to a vulnerable species becoming established in the vulnerable species' habitat
- introduce disease that may cause the species to decline, or
- interfere substantially with the recovery of the species.

A dispersal of a camp could result in at least four of the outcomes listed above thus having significant impact on the species.

Probably the most well known example of numerous failed dispersal attempts is in Maclean, NSW. The earliest record of this camp being occupied by GHFF is 1885 in the Maclean Rainforest Reserve that was reduced from 7.2ha to 1ha when it was decided to build a school on the site in 1960.

Consequently after nearly a decade from 1999 to 2008, attempts to move the camp from this site has failed and is now also fragmented to a few different locations that has caused more conflict in the near vicinity. In the **Final Maclean Flying-fox Management Plan** prepared in 2010 by Geolink

Consultancy, it was stated that:

- dispersal is not a scientifically valid management action
- dispersal has been undertaken at a number of sites across Australia, the scientific validity of this methodology generally does not support dispersal
- no submission provides information to challenge or change this view

Consequently camp dispersal does not feature in their management plan.

In a report prepared by Roberts and Eby 2013 entitled **Review of past flying-fox dispersal actions between 1990-2013**, 17 dispersals from 1990 to 2013 were reviewed and the following observations on the majority of the dispersals were:

1. Dispersed animals did not leave the local area
2. Dispersed animals did not move far
3. Conflict was not resolved
4. It was impossible to predict where the replacement camp would form
5. Repeat dispersal actions were required
6. Financial costs of all dispersal attempts were high

Another recent report has also identified a very disturbing downward trend of 6% per annum over the last 10 years in population estimates for the Spectacled Flying-fox. This coupled with increasing urbanisation of flying-foxes and political pressure to manage this conflict puts the recovery efforts of this vulnerable species in jeopardy. The report states that "A century of attempted removal of flying-foxes from urban areas in the WTR suggests that we need to adopt a different approach."

Ref: Westcott, D.A., McKeown, A. (2014) *Spectacled flying-fox monitoring in the Wet Tropics Region*. Report to the National Environmental Research Program. Reef and Rainforest Research Centre Limited, Cairns (13pp.).

Therefore in light of the current scientific views, reports and rigorous evaluation of dispersals as a camp management strategy, this draft policy appears to be poorly researched and hastily produced. A Nationally Significant Camp by definition should be given more protection and conservation value as critical roosting habitat for vulnerable species such as the Grey headed and Spectacled flying-fox.

We feel strongly that this Draft EPBC Act Policy Statement should be immediately withdrawn for both the Grey headed and Spectacled Flying-fox and adopt the recommendations from each Recovery Plan and in particular acknowledge that there is a growing view that it is best to manage flying-fox camps where they are and develop strategies to reduce their impact.

Regards



Sylvia Hood

President, Bat Rescue Inc.

Fundraising

There were no fundraising events held this year apart from the stalls we had at various events. With our grant funding in place major fundraising events are not a priority activity and we can focus on our core business.

Sponsorship & Donations

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

*Jeffery Anderson
Pamela Bates
Michelle Loving and C Brown
Trevor Hart
Spaghetti Junction
Tia Silver
Morag Bruce
Kristy Jonkers*

*Jonathon Miller
Barbara Smolinks
Douglas Taylor
Brett Warner (Figjam Design)
Jennifer Muirhead
Deborah Jones
Barbara Brindley
F.Laporteiribe*



Training

**Baby Bat Workshop 7/12/14 - conducted by Megan Vella
RSPCA Heat Stress Workshop 15/11/14-attended by members
Maternity Box Workshop 27/9/14-conducted by Delicia Williams
Photos clockwise**



Rescue Report 2014-15

Megachiroptera Summary (Total=90)

Table 1 – Summary of Rehabs:Species by Gender

Species	Female	Male	Grand Total
P.alesto(Black)	16	9	25
P.poliocephalus(Grey-headed)	8	2	10
P.scapulatus(Little Red)	1	3	4
Grand Total	25	14	39

Table 2 – Summary of Rehabs:Reason for entering care by outcome

Reason	Outcome						Grand Total
	Died	Euthanased	In Care	Released	Transferred		
Barbed wire	1	1	3	3	9		17
Bird attack					1		1
Bird netting entanglement		2		5	1		8
Dog attack		1					1
Fell from tree			1				1
Fishing line entanglement					1		1
Hit by car			1				1
Orphaned	1						1
Pool or dam					2		2
Unknown			1	1	2		4
Collision with building			1				1
Other see notes			1				1
Grand Total	2	4	8	9	16		39

Table 3 – Summary of Orphans

Species	Female	Male	Grand Total
P.alesto(Black)	20	20	40
P.poliocephalus(Grey-headed)	5	6	11
Grand Total	25	26	51

Table 4 – Summary of Orphans: Reason

Reason	P.alesto(Black)	P.poliocephalus (Grey-Headed)	Grand Total
Barbed wire orphan	1	3	4
Electrocution orphan	1	2	3
Fell from tree	1		1
Found abandoned	2		2
Found on Ground	6	1	7
Heat Stress Event	14	1	15
Orphaned	15	4	19
Grand Total	40	11	51

APPENDICES

East Coast Encounter includes the work of Australian Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists and writers to re-envise the encounter by James Cook and his crew with Aboriginal people in 1770. Cook's 1770 voyage has become central to narratives of Australian history and precipitated European colonisation of the country. Consequently there are aspects of this seminal journey that continue to resonate powerfully today. Instead of conveying a literal history or a primarily Eurocentric world view, *East Coast Encounter* imaginatively presents this shared story from diverse perspectives. It also brings historical events into the present by incorporating contributors' reflections on their relevance today. By enabling this significant encounter to be expressed in multiple ways and from varied points of view, *East Coast Encounter* seeks to promote cultural dialogue and reconciliatory understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

A percentage of the profits from the sale of this publication will be directed to the Indigenous education projects of Ian Thorpe's Fountain for Youth.

Equipment as at 30/6/15

Note:all equipment located on Sunshine Coast

BAT RESCUE INC SUNSHINE COAST

EQUIPMENT REGISTER - as at 30/6/15

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

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		
HSE Sprayer&water bottle		\$ 55.00	18/11/2014	
HSE - 4 x Backpack Sprayers	4	\$ 159.92	24/11/2014	
HSE- Vet Supplies		\$ 201.81	26/11/2014	
HSE 3 x walkie talkies, rechargeable	3	\$ 89.97	15/01/2015	
HSE Equip-labelTags,carrier,		\$ 22.47	26/02/2015	
HSE- Flagging Tape		\$ 30.70	26/02/2015	
2 x metal Calipers	2	\$ 40.00	3/03/2015	
10 x Heat Pads&5xincar leads	9	\$ 395.10	20/03/2015	
10 x Temp Alarms	10	\$ 119.10	30/03/2015	
4 x Carbon Fibre Calipers	4	\$ 37.56	30/03/2015	
2 x coop cups(replacements)	2	\$ 14.90	25/05/2015	
2 x scales	2	\$ 29.98	26/05/2015	
4 x Carry Cages	4	\$ 119.96	1/06/2015	
4 x Rehab.Cages	4	\$ 167.60	1/06/2015	
TopKnot-BrinseaHumidicrib	1	\$ 1,370.00	24/06/2015	
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 32,733.37		

Audited Financial Statements