

# Night Wings



Quarterly Newsletter

**SPRING 2010**



## 2010 CRUISE DATES:

- 24 October
- 21 November
- 5th December

## TICKET PRICES:

\$30 adult, \$22 concession,  
\$15 child (3-15 years)  
\$80 family (2 adults/2 child)

Book and pay online at  
[www.wildlife.org.au](http://www.wildlife.org.au) or

## WPSQ BATTY BOAT CRUISE GRANT

Bat Rescue was delighted to receive \$1,450 from the annual Batty Boat Cruise grants awarded by Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.

After 20 years of operation, the Batty Boat Cruises are a great family outing and an increasingly popular wildlife tourism event. All proceeds from the cruises are donated to flying-fox organizations like ourselves.

Expert guest speakers provide interesting commentary en route as the boat sails up the Brisbane River to the Indooroopilly colony,

arriving just in time to watch the spectacular flyout after sunset. Cruises depart from Mowbray Park (East Brisbane) and run for nearly four hours.

We thank not only WPSQ, but also the dedicated volunteers and wildlife carers who accompany the cruises with their orphaned bats to provide an interactive experience for the guests on board.



## Caught on Camera

The Brown Long-Eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*) is a common species found across England and France to Korea and Japan.

This microbat's eyesight is used as much as echolocation in finding prey. In addition to catching insects in flight, they often fly slowly amongst foliage picking insects off leaves and bark. Their habit of flying close to the ground, or even landing to tackle prey, makes them vulnerable to attack by predators and many fall victim to cats.

Long-Eared Bats should be called 'Long-Lived Bats' as they can live up to 30 years!

*See story on page 7.*



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## BAT RESCUE INC.

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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**HONORARY SOLICITOR**  
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Nambour West Qld 4560

**Rescue Hotline (WILVOS)** Ph. 5441 6200



Deadlines: 1st March, 1st June, 1st September, 1st December  
Please send comments/contributions to: admin@batrescue.org.au

**DISCLAIMER:** The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Bat Rescue Inc.  
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### Welcome to New Members

We warmly welcome the following new ACTIVE members:

- Annie Van Der Meulen
- Kate Louis
- Zoe Jung

We wish them a long and happy association with Bat Rescue.



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe that bat season is nearly upon us again, and with our training for the year done we now have to brace ourselves for incoming orphans and rescues.

Camp activity has been abnormal over the last season and throughout the year with some areas experiencing extreme food shortages. Mass starvation was reported in various parts of S.E. Queensland and NSW, and many rehabs in care over the winter months.

At Peachester Sue had to extend the support feeding program well into winter as the releases just didn't seem to want to go too far from an easy feed, and can you blame them? If times are tough out there, it is even tougher on the newly integrated juveniles being the least experienced at finding food. So, many thanks to Sue for her dedication in support feeding for an extended time this year.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 10th October, and I urge all those members intending to rejoin to pay their renewals beforehand to qualify for crèche and release subsidies. On the day we will have the usual supplies available for bat season such as teats, HPS, and various items of equipment for sale. Lunch is provided and it is a great time to catch up with fellow batcarers from around the traps—so come along and enjoy a pleasant morning!

Carers please ensure you read the latest version of the By-laws (which are available on the website). Amendments include removal of references to Branches, and the addition of reporting requirements to the Care Co-Ordinator particularly with regard to rehab issues, transfer and release of bats. Other documents also now available in the FORMS section for members to download include our Public Liability Insurance Policy and Group Permit. We will be providing a document for each active carer that confirms they are operating under this Permit.

Thank you all once again for your patience and understanding while Bat Rescue was undergoing the recent organisational changes. We look forward to a bright and positive future with a focus at a more local level for caring activities, conservation and the promotion of bats within the community.

*Sylvia Hood*  
President



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Currumbin Wildlife Hospital was this year's chosen recipient for Bat Rescue's annual donation to a worthy cause. Dr Michael Pyne was so delighted with the \$500 he received from us that he phoned personally to convey his appreciation. Currumbin Wildlife Hospital relies heavily on donations from the public to assist their work and remain open to treat incoming wildlife, which can be very costly. Gold Coast and Tweed Valley bat carers use this service on a regular basis.

The bank account received a pleasant boost with the WPSQ grant money, which always assists us to cover crèche and release costs for the forthcoming season. We will also be looking to replace some of our bat transport boxes that are gradually disintegrating and long overdue for retirement.

The books are currently being audited by Accountant, Michael Harper, who is always very helpful and does a wonderful job for us and many other Associations that need audited financial statements each year. The financial statements form part of our Annual Report that will be distributed at the AGM and made available online in the 'members only' section.

*Carmel Givens*  
Treasurer



### QUEEN MEGAN

Reigning 'Chockie Queen' **MEGAN VELLA** retains her crown after banking a total of \$925 from fundraising chocolate sales during the 2009-2010 financial year. Megan has already kicked off her bid to win the crown again this financial year after banking an additional \$563 a few weeks ago!

Runner-up for the 2009-2010 financial year with the impressive total of \$555 was Gold Coast member **LAHNEE BULT**.

We thank Megan, Lahnee and all those who continue to support us by selling, buying (and eating!) the mix of Freddo's and other goodies.



## FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

Tickets are now on sale for this wonderful original painting, 'GOING, GOING, GONE', kindly donated by artist Sue Richardson.

Tickets cost \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00 and can be purchased at the AGM or from Carmel.

The draw will take place just prior to Christmas. Many thanks to Sue for her generosity!



### BAT RESCUE AGM

Date: Sunday 10th October

Time: 9.30-12.30

98 Windsor Road, Nambour

All members are cordially invited to attend.

Lunch provided afterwards

Please note this date is also the deadline to renew 2010 financial membership prior to voting  
Teats and other carer supplies will be available





## ACTIVITIES AROUND THE ROOST



*Braidon, Sue and Carmel all smiles at Maleny Wood Expo*



*Sammy in action at the Wood Expo*

### Winter Displays

Thank you to everyone who helped man the Bat Rescue stand at the Maleny Wood Expo, held 1st and 2nd May, and World Environment Day, held 6th June at Sunshine Coast University.

Thank you also to Delicia who ensured that Phoebe, our Education Flying-fox, was on hand at both events to do her bit as star attraction and official crowd-pleaser.

### Orphan Training Workshop

Our annual Baby Bat Boot Camp was held at Nambour on 4th September. Our new carers are now all set for their first orphan!



*Lyn manning the stand at World Environment Day*

## Brisbane Flying-Fox Forum

A Flying-Fox Roost Restoration & Management Forum was held over two days in July at Griffith University, Brisbane. The forum was attended by over 70 people from Cairns to Canberra including local council, Parks and Wildlife, DEWHA, and conservation groups.

The forum brought together experts in flying-fox ecology and bush regenerators to discuss how to sustainably manage flying-fox habitat and manage conflict at camps. It was the first step toward creating a resource for those interested in the management of camps in-situ. Key speakers included Drs Peggy Eby and Hume Field. The trials

and experiences of camp management from several sites such as Woodend (Ipswich), Sparks Hill, Cascade Gardens, Black Swamp (Cleveland) in Queensland, and Maclean and Gordon in NSW were discussed.

Proceedings from this forum including the presentations from the day, the key points gained from the workshops and information on legislation and how it applies to bush regeneration will be available in the near future.

—Billie Roberts



## 2010 Orphan Feedchart

**Carers please note that a revised orphan feedchart has been issued for 2010.**

The new regime, devised by Connie Kerr and Dave Pinson, involves slightly increased feeding volumes to those fed previously and also optional milk formulas.

**This season Bat Rescue carers may also choose to feed their orphans either DIPLOMA full cream milk powder (with the addition of Sandoz or Troy calcium syrup), or NAN2 infant formula.**

The chart itself has been prepared using a sample set in excess of 200 babies (comprising orphans on three different milk formulas, and babies suckling from their mothers) with 3-stage polynomial regression applied. The milk volumes on the new chart have been increased to better match the growth rates of mother-reared babies.

The benchmark being used this season by Bat Rescue will be the green 'Pinson' line on the online records system growth graph.

*Hard copies of the new feedchart are available from Carmel, and may also be downloaded from the website's PUBLICATIONS/Forms section.*

## Be prepared!

On 31st August a carer in Cairns reported receiving the first live orphan of the season—approximately one month earlier than usual. This does not bode well for the forthcoming birthing season, particularly after many bats also battled starvation over the winter months.

Please dust off your equipment and check that heatpads are in working order, thermometers and calipers have live batteries and your chosen milk formula is on hand.

### FOR SUPPLIES OF:

- Sandoz Calcium Syrup, feedcharts and other caring equipment

Contact Carmel (ph. 5494 3140)

- Teats and dummies

Contact Danielle (ph. 54376246)





## BAT CHAT



### More web history....

In the last edition of the newsletter, an article about the website's fifth birthday was included. Unfortunately space did not permit going into the details of all those who were instrumental in the development of the website, and we would like to take the opportunity in this edition to acknowledge the contributors in more detail.

Gold Coast Branch co-founder Gary Bressan first registered the domain on Bat Rescue's behalf in 2005. With no web design expertise whatsoever within the Bat Rescue ranks, Gabi Friebe and Peter Richards generously donated the services of their Developer, Donna Drutschmann, to put together the first fully functional website which appeared online in early 2006. Many hours were spent by Leanne Baird (then President of Bat Rescue) writing the content, with Gabi liaising between Bat Rescue members and Donna.

Bat Rescue was delighted to have a web presence at long last, but Gabi's suggestion and success at procuring the services of UQ students provided an unexpected opportunity to develop a more sophisticated site for no cost. A number of exciting features were proposed by the students. They even made a special trip to shoot footage at the release site in February 2006 with the intention of featuring video on the website (although this was one of the plans that did not eventuate). Bat Rescue took delivery of the website template in July 2006, but was unable to go-live with it.

Gary assisted again at this point and organised for the site to be completed and hosted for free by a business associate, Brett Warner of Figjam Web Design & Hosting. The current website was launched online in October 2006.

Peter Richards installed his online records system in January 2007 and suddenly record-keeping was no longer a tedious chore. The accessibility and ease of use ensured data was more accurate and up-to-date, and helped put Bat Rescue at the forefront of innovation.

The now large collection of data that has been amassed over the last few years has already proved useful supporting research efforts such as Dave Pinson's BMI (body mass index) analysis, and rescue statistics for the Wildlife Friendly Fencing Project. No doubt there will be other future potential uses for the data.

The website's hitlog documents the growing popularity of the website over the last few years. However this has not been achieved without hard work on the part of Vicki Bressan. Not having an IT background, Vicki has spent many hours researching and implementing technical advice on search engine optimisation techniques and site submission. Maintenance is an on-going regular responsibility which Vicki continues to this day from her sandy outpost in the Middle East, ensuring new carers are given password access to the 'hidden' side of the website, and adding updates as required.

The website seems to have drawn the attention not only of the world, but also certain other care groups who have breached copyright by cheekily reproducing uncredited content and/or photos on their own websites without our permission!

The contributors of photographs appearing on the website include Bob and Jenny James, Louise Saunders, Helen Gormley, Dr Les Hall, Peter Richards, Sylvia Hood, Leanne Baird and Gary Bressan (whose photograph of Max the very photogenic GHFF appears on the homepage). Max, a bat that Gary himself rescued as an orphan, can also be seen gracing the cover of Dave Pinson's current *Flying-Fox Manual*, and appears within the manual itself as a tiny baby.

We are grateful to every single person who has assisted in achieving what seemed an unattainable dream five years ago.

One of our future goals is to revamp the website and retire Max the coverboy at long last, and we are currently exploring ways in which to achieve that. If anyone has web design expertise or contacts in the IT field, please let us know!

### WEBSITE USERS PLEASE NOTE

Current versions of Bat Rescue documents are available to carers with password access to the 'hidden' side of the website. The following documents can be downloaded from the FORMS section:

Membership form	Orphan Feedchart
By-Laws	Code of Practice
Constitution	Orphan Sponsorship Form
Bat Rescue Brochure	C3 Incident Report Form
Bat Rescue Permit	Public Liability Insurance

## Evening Drinks

*The following story was originally published in Britain's 'Daily Mail'. Bat lovers will appreciate how difficult it is to capture action shots of microbats in-flight—especially in the wild! Thank you to our long-term supporter Jeannie White for contributing the article.*

Swooping low over a garden pond in Surrey, these are the stunning pictures of bats enjoying an evening drink at their favourite watering hole. They are so detailed you can even see the night creatures slurping from the pool with their little pink tongues.

After noticing the beautiful bats flying close to his garden pond at night, Kim began wondering how he could capture the moment they drank from the pool.

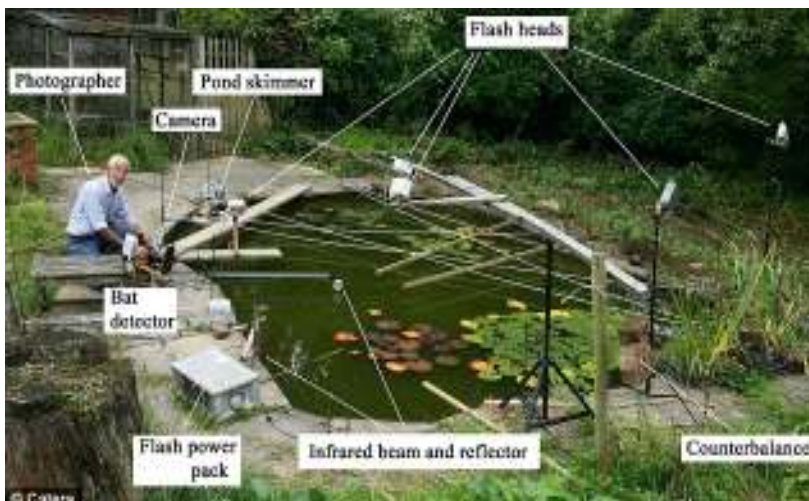
Travelling at 20mph, with wing beats not visible to the human eye and flying mostly at night the bats are notoriously difficult to photograph. They are also no bigger than a human hand and weigh between 6-12 gms.

Kim, 76, rigged ropes across the pond which encouraged the bats to drink from a certain point. Then, using special sensors designed by himself, he managed to get the perfect shots.

He said “I think not one in a million people has ever seen this happen, but it happens every night during the summer months all over the country. These photos were taken with a digital camera using a device that listens for the ultrasonic squeaks. An infrared beam was then set to trigger flash lamps whenever a bat dipped down to scoop up a mouthful of water”.

Kim's subjects are believed to be a Brown Long-Eared (above right) and a Daubentons bat (opposite) which have made their homes in his garden near Guildford, Surrey.

“In all my time working as a wildlife photographer I don't think anyone has ever tried to do this like this, I am very pleased with the results. It took weeks and a lot of patience to set up but the results are breathtaking.”



Except for the camera itself, Kim designed and built all the equipment to achieve the amazing results. To generate enough flash to capture the shot Kim needed an incredible 3,500 volts.

*Left: Kim Taylor shows off equipment that he used to get his detailed images*





## MEET THE MEMBERS

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR BATTY BUDDIES—BUT WERE TOO POLITE TO ASK!  
Our very own Grey-Headed Prying Fox suffers no such scruples, and has grilled two members for their secrets.  
Next edition it could be YOU under the microscope. Be afraid.....be very afraid!



Active Member Profile:  
**SAMMY RINGER**  
Joined January 2009

*When not wiping bat and possum bums, Sammy can be found at home in Maleny bashing away at her keyboard earning her living as a writer.*

• **Prior to bats, have you cared for any other wildlife?**

I have been a WILVO member for three years, concentrating on birds and the odd possum that comes my way.

• **How did you become interested in bats?**

Bat Rescue hero Carmel Givens actually pestered me (in the nicest possible way). She assured me that bats were the most intelligent little things I would ever encounter and I would absolutely fall in love with my first charge. She was right! I am also friends with 'bat man' Dr Les Hall who piqued my interest no end.

• **So how was your first bat experience?**

She was grumpy! But also more adorable, softer and more intelligent than I had expected. I had heard bats were something special but I wasn't really prepared for *the* most amazing, wonderful and intelligent Black Flying-fox in the whole wide world (until my next)!

*Ed note: to read more about the unrivalled magnificence of Sammy's first bat, see Maya's story in the previous edition of Night Wings*

• **How does the rest of your household feel about bats?**

I live alone at present, but was caring for my mother when I had Maya. Her early skepticism was soon replaced with a strong desire to play mum along with me! She got her kicks preparing the formula.

• **Any furry/feathered family members?**

Susie—a little Shih tsu/Maltese Cross. She keeps her distance from animals in care and shows little interest. She *does* show an interest in me at feeding times (how come I get one meal a day and they're getting four?)

• **Share a favourite non-bat anecdote**

I once hit the longest drive on the third hole at a friendly golf day. The blokes were not amused. Almost led to a divorce with then hubby who hit a tree 20m away. I proceeded to make amends by hitting highest shot on the fourth hole—went straight up into orbit and landed near my feet.

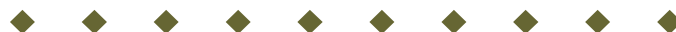
• **What would we find if we peeked under your bed?**

Unspeakable things, with a faint resemblance to something in a petrie dish!

• **Any other little secrets? Spill the beans!**

My real name is Vicky Speck. OMG, now I've let it out of the bag! Please don't think of it even as a nickname. In fact, don't tell anyone.

*Sure, 'Sammy', your secret is safe—heh heh heh!*



Associate Member Profile:  
**NADIA O'CARROLL**  
Joined May 2006

*Nadia has her own accounting practice and is a keen conservationist. She and husband Kerry live on a beautiful rural property on Gold Coast's Mt Tamborine.*

• **How did you become interested in bats?**

Ric Natrass (who sadly passed away last year) needed some people to help out counting the Canungra bat colony. I recruited/coerced my family into helping out and enjoyed watching the bats and learning more about them. When I found out about Bat Rescue I became a supporter.

• **What other environmental causes do you support?**

I am very interested in the environment and animal welfare and belong to many organizations including as President of Tamborine Mountain Natural History Association, and member of Sea Shepherd, Orangutan Australia Project, WPSQ, RSPCA and Elephant Nature Park in Thailand.

• **Your children having flown the nest, any furkids running your life instead?**

Possum the Kelpie, Max the mad Maremma, two sun conures, Oliver and Taffy the horses, four sheep, two cows and tropical fish.

• **What would we find if we peeked under your bed?**

Your guess is as good as mine!

*Ooooh! Don't even go there.*



## Member profile continued...

### • Share a favourite anecdote

Quite a few years ago one of my parrots was playing with me when she somehow became entangled in my hair. I tried unsuccessfully to gently extract her but soon realised that I needed some assistance.

I sent a message to my eldest son (who was at school) to come home at lunchtime to 'help me with something'. When further details were requested from the school, I very unwisely told them why I needed help. Stunned silence was followed by peals of laughter. Fortunately one of the staff members kindly drove Andrew home and he was able to cut off a few chunks of hair and remove the

parrot— who was remarkably calm throughout the whole bad hair experience.

### • Any hidden talents we don't know about?

So well hidden even I can't find them.

### • How about sharing a juicy secret?

I can't think of anything remotely interesting or exciting!

*Thank you to Sammy and Nadia for being such good sports, despite being asked a few whacky questions!!*



## BATS 'n' PIECES

### New Baby Batling



Congratulations to Billie Roberts and her husband Drew on the safe arrival of Clay earlier this year—a whopping 4.05kg (or 8lb 15oz)!

Billie says life has changed dramatically since Clay's arrival, but she loves every moment. In between all her new domestic duties, Billie is currently writing up her PhD which examined long-distance movements and habitat use of flying-foxes in eastern Australia. Billie is also involved with various camp management issues up and down the east coast, including Sydney and Maclean.



Prior to caring for small humans, Billie's passion for bats began as a carer with Bat Rescue.

### New Supermarket Grocery Item

Bat nesting boxes (costing approx. A\$45 each) flew off the shelves of Italian supermarkets during the northern Spring as people tried to encourage bats to move in.

The Co-op chain of supermarkets reported that it had sold over 12,000 bat boxes in the three months April to June 2010 at 160 of its stores.

Paolo Agnelli of Florence's Museum of Natural History was quoted in the local media as saying that a bat can consume 10,000 insects in one night, of which around 2,000 will be mosquitoes. He said that relying on bats would allow people to dispense with toxic chemical insecticides that could kill bees and butterflies.

Authorities in the cities of Modena, Rome, Venice and Treviso have also been installing as many nesting boxes as they can in the hope that bats might stop the onslaught of the tiger mosquito, which has infected hundreds of people across Europe with *chikungunya fever*, a serious viral disease.



For great microbat boxes which really DO work, contact Alan and Stacey Franks, ph. 07-54723142 [www.hollowloghomes.com.au](http://www.hollowloghomes.com.au)



To celebrate Wildlife Awareness Month, Australia Post will be issuing a set of six stamps celebrating wildlife care. The issue 'RESCUE TO RELEASE' will be available from 5th October to 2nd November and aims to raise public consciousness of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. There are six stamps in all—five 60 cent stamps featuring a wombat, kangaroo, flying-fox, koala and boobook owl, and a \$1.20 stamp featuring an orphaned ringtail possum.

## OVERDUE!

A friendly reminder to those who have not yet renewed their Bat Rescue financial membership, **your 2010 subscription is now overdue.**

- Carers who rejoin after 10 October (and who have not also earned crèche credits before that date) will not be eligible for free crèche.
- Password access to the records side of the website will be deactivated on 10th October for those who are no longer financial members.

If you are not continuing your association with Bat Rescue, we would like to thank you for your past support and hope that your interest in wildlife, and bats in particular, continues long into the future.



## BLACK BATS REACH VICTORIA

The first ever rescue of a Black Flying-fox in Melbourne was reported on 4th July 2010.

Traditionally a species found in northern Australia, Black Flying-foxes have been gradually extending their geographical range southwards for a number of years.

Eighty years ago the southern-most limit in Queensland for this species was Rockhampton, they reached the Tweed River by 1960 and made their first appearance on the Central NSW Coast only ten years ago.

There have also reportedly been a number of sightings of Grey-Headed flying-foxes in the northern parts of Tasmania during recent months.

## BATS IN CAPTIVITY by Susan M. Barnard

### Volume 1: Biological & Medical Aspects

Comprising 44 papers by 22 contributing authors, Bats in Captivity is the only book of its kind detailing the care of captive bats worldwide.

### Volume 2: Aspects of Rehabilitation

This volume comprises 38 papers by 41 contributing authors. It contains a user-friendly guide to bat identification, subjects on capturing and handling, release, simulating mother's milk and hand rearing pups of all bat groups plus much more.

These books are the culmination of 12 years of work by Susan Barnard (USA). Australian contributions include papers by Les Hall, Janine Barrett, Annabelle Olsson, Helen Luckhoff, Nicola Markus and some photographs provided by Bat Rescue's very own Gary Bressan!

Volumes 1 and 2 available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Volume 3 will be released in 2011, and Volume 4 is due out in 2012.

## IMPRESSIVE BATTY FACT:

*Flying-foxes can distinguish between less than 1gm of banana and artificial banana essence at a distance of 100m!*

## STREET ART



This interesting piece of art-work was spotted by friend of Bat Rescue, Tracey Waring, on the Broadbeach Esplanade (Gold Coast). The Cascades Gardens, home to a permanent flying-fox colony and site of Bat Rescue's flagship \$70,000+ habitat restoration project, is nearby.

