



Mammal Mail

March 2009

Newsletter of the Tree-Kangaroo & Mammal Group Inc.

Welcome Back

to all TKMG members and Mammal Mail readers for 2009. As the new editor I'd like to say thank you for the opportunity to be a part of such an important and well respected group. Our long standing editor, Larry Crook, has set the standards so high that I think I will be wearing my editor L plates for sometime.

We would love to hear from members and readers about MM and if you have any ideas for something new or different please share. We have a new kids page this issue and we are inviting those kids who have had an experience with our local mammals, like helping to care for the injured or wounded or even just their thoughts on how we can better look after these important members of our community.

Last November the Quoll Seekers Network presentation "Quolls – in a spot of trouble" by Glen Kvassay, Luke Jackson & Macca was well attended and I am still getting enquiries about the 'next one'. I will let you know if we are lucky enough to get another visit sometime soon. However, there will be other great presentations coming this year; I just think our presenters may have trouble matching the charismatic Macca. There will be a more detailed write up of the presentation in the next edition (due to deadlines and people's availability over the Christmas period) but for this edition we are sharing the great news from the Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld (WPSQ) of a substantial grant received from the Australian Government that will result in crucial conservation goals being met.



FUNDING WILL HELP COMMUNITY LIVE ALONGSIDE QUOLLS

Northern Quoll
Photo © Scott Burnett

The federal government has given more than \$100,000 to help continue increasing community knowledge about quolls throughout the State and to assist with further research.

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Wildlife Queensland – Queensland's oldest wildlife conservation organisation) received the grant in December from the federal government's 'Caring for our Country' Open Grants scheme to fund their project entitled 'Protecting Quolls in Queensland Landscapes.'

'This funding is a vote of confidence in the Quoll Seekers Network program and the reputation of Wildlife Queensland to deliver important conservation outcomes,' said Ewa Meyer, Wildlife Queensland's Projects Manager.

'Wildlife Queensland's project attracted the generous funding because the federal government agreed that the project supported Australia's biodiversity and natural icons. We intend to show that by involving 10 other partners, a collaborative approach can help towards successful outcomes for such a major endangered species project.'

The money will be used towards expanding the current work of the Quoll Seekers Network which aims to research Queensland's quolls and help rural populations live harmoniously alongside Australia's marsupial carnivores.

The new expanded activities will include raising community awareness through education in schools in the Border Ranges, and camera surveys of quoll populations in the Conondales, Imbil and the Gympie area.

Quoll Discovery Days will be held state wide in areas close to known quoll habitat including Cairns, Townsville, Gympie and the Numinbah Valley. At Quoll Discovery Days, the public will be invited to see a captive-bred quoll, find out more about these intriguing animals and have a chance to take home a cheque to help build a quoll-proof poultry pen.

'We want to help landowners to identify potential quoll populations and give them ideas on how to manage their properties with quoll conservation in mind,' said Mrs Meyer.

The quoll-proof poultry pen is designed to reduce one of the areas of conflict between people and quolls – quolls sometimes enter poultry sheds and kill hens.

Mrs Meyer added, 'We hope that the camera surveys around the Mary River headwaters will provide us with baseline data on quoll populations which we can use to ensure that these endangered species do not disappear before we can even confirm their distribution. Both spotted-tailed and northern quolls will be the subject of the field surveys.'

The surveys will be carried out by Dr Scott Burnett, one of Australia's leading experts in the study of spotted-tailed and northern quolls, and his team from the University of the Sunshine Coast as well as volunteers from Wildlife Queensland.

Since 2006, Wildlife Queensland's Quoll Seekers Network has confirmed that populations of spotted-tailed quolls still live in the north Beaudesert area. However they were unable to capture photographic evidence of quoll populations in the Border Ranges, previously thought to be a stronghold for the carnivorous marsupial, despite more than 6000 camera-hours being spent on the exhaustive scientific survey in 2007.

The Protecting Quolls in Queensland Landscapes project acknowledges the support of the following organisations: University of the Sunshine Coast; SEQ Catchments; Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM; Terrain (Wet Tropics NRM); Gympie Regional Council; Townsville City Council; Cairns Regional Council; Queensland Parks and Wildlife; and the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee.

More details about [Quoll Seekers Network](#)

For more information on Wildlife Queensland's activities, contact by [email](#) or call +61 7 3221 0194.

The Quoll article can be viewed at <http://www.wildlife.org.au/news-quollgrant08.html>

Ed's Note: Thank you to both WPSQ & Dr Scott Burnett for allowing us to share this information and beautiful photography.

Where can I buy that TKMG gear?

Crew & polo T-shirts, brightly coloured kiddies T's and caps, books, shopping bags, postcards, cards, fridge magnets, posters and TKMG CDs can all be purchased from our public meetings and the Yungaburra Markets..

Also look for our products in the Ravenshoe & Malanda Falls Visitors Centres, Yungaburra Visitors Centre, shopping bags in the Eacham Medical Centre and the Malanda Fairy Shop, T-shirts in the TREAT Interp. Centre and at the Tree Kangaroo Café you will find CDs & postcards

If the outlets have run out or for any merchandising Enquiries? Ring Jack Grant on 0410810427

Victorian Heatwave Hits Wildlife

(Sourced from www.wildlifevictoria.org.au article dated Thursday, 29 January 2009)

Wildlife Victoria volunteers have been at the site of the largest Grey Headed Flying Fox Colony during the heat wave and by the end of the first two days of rescue efforts, over 1000 GHFF's had died from the heat.

Volunteers spent hours spraying water onto the juvenile creche in an effort to rehydrate and the GHFF's were happy for their efforts drinking the water either straight from the stream or from droplets on their wings and bodies. Many were saved but with more days of intense heat the prognosis does not look good.

Dozens of juveniles and some adults were taken into care by a licensed volunteer wildlife rehabilitator from Wildlife Victoria. These are the fortunate ones, they will spend two days in the flying fox aviary at the carer's house which is situated in a cool part of her garden and has a fine mist spray from the sprinkler giving the bats constant relief from the overwhelming heat.

Volunteers are gearing up for more of the same. They will weather the heat to bring relief to the colony in the hope of saving just a few more.

Ringtail possums have also suffered badly from the heat and are coming in to shelters and vets in enormous numbers, many with burns to their feet from walking on the hot ground, something that is an anomaly for these animals who prefer to move from shrub to shrub without going to the ground.

EMERGENCY LINE 13 000 94535
(for calls about injured wildlife only!)
DONATIONS LINE 13 00 85 9453
No more supplies (linen, blankets, needles, etc) please!

Victorian Bushfires Devastate Wildlife

(Sourced from www.wildlifevictoria.org.au article dated Thursday, 29 January 2009)

Wildlife rescuers are involved in the largest rescue and rehabilitation operation in over 30 years. The Victorian bushfires of February 2009 have left a trail of devastation and loss for all residents. For the wildlife it has left thousands of animals starving, with no habitat and many rescue shelters destroyed. For the injured animals that have been able to be rescued and placed in care it is the ongoing support, especially financial, is crucial to their survival.

Wildlife volunteers have been working in all fire damaged grounds performing search & rescue operations with hundreds of animals taken in for treatment and rehabilitation, and still more coming. With the loss of at least six wildlife shelters, Wildlife Victoria has been working to identify what shelters can offer support and help with the evacuation of animals already in care.

Wildlife Victoria has taken action including food drops of \$50 000 worth of food supplies for the starving animals remaining in the burnt remains of their habitats and providing support for medical supplies, veterinarian staff, logistical support.

Each donation will make a huge difference to their capacity to get resources on the ground quickly and save as many animals' lives as humanly possible. Just one koala in care costs around \$400 per week and rehabilitation can take many months before the koala can be successfully released back to its natural habitat.

Wildlife Victoria has launched a **Bushfire Appeal** to help pay for bandages, treatment, medicines and food for injured wildlife, and for emergency response activities to ensure their volunteers can best prepare for and respond to injured and starving wildlife affected by these and future bushfires and other emergencies.

Donations to the Wildlife Victoria Bushfire Appeal can be made by:

- visiting donations@wildlifevictoria.org.au
- or
- post to Wildlife Victoria Bushfire Appeal 3/288 Brunswick St, Fitzroy VIC AUSTRALIA 3065.
- or
- Calling the DONATIONS LINE 13 00 85 9453

News News News News News News

<p>TKMS DONATES TO BUSHFIRE APPEAL</p> <p>The Tree Kangaroo & Mammal Group (TKMS) has happily agreed to make a donation of \$1000 to help towards the efforts of saving and rehabilitating Victorian wildlife.</p> <p>If you would like to donate or support in anyway we have included web details for various organisations that are a part of this enormous task.</p>	<p>THANKS TO DORIS</p> <p>Our most heartfelt thanks to Doris Herrmann who has made a generous donation to TKMG.</p> <p>Doris, who has been has been completely deaf since birth and blind since 10 years old, is an accomplished writer and lives in Switzerland. She has developed a deep affection for Kangaroos, including publishing several scientific articles & books, which persists to this day.</p> <p>Instead of gifts for her recent 75th Birthday Doris asked for friends & family to donate to TKMS rather than personal gifts and has provided a donation of over \$4000. Some of the money with help with the TK status submission.</p> <p>We would like to say THANK YOU DORIS !!</p>	<p>THURSDAY MARCH 5TH</p> <p>TKMG PUBLIC MEETING</p> <p>Come along and join us at the next Public Meeting and get a chance to meet another amazing local.</p> <p>Margit Cianelu, a well known local carer and long time member of TKMS, will be bringing a little friend along for our members and guests to get a closer look.</p> <p>See you there at the Malanda Hotel.</p>	<p>DOROTHY THE T-K</p> <p>Our next Mammal Mail will feature the amazing Dorothy. She is a local Tree-Kangaroo in the long-term care of Margit Cianelu and has had some severe eyesight problems for sometime.</p> <p>Margit was able to get the volunteered services of a vet and the facilities of a local vet surgery to see if some sight could be restored to Dorothy.</p> <p>The op went well but not as planned. The donated lens was not able to be successfully implanted this time but they are going to try again. Plans were for repeated surgery very soon, until during a post op check up it was discovered that Dorothy was a new Mum, her joey is about 20mm long and about 1 month old.</p> <p>Check out the whole story in the next MM.</p>
<p>STATUS OF T-K PRESENTATION</p> <p>TKMG President, Jack Grant, will present the submission he is making to EPA on behalf of TKMG regarding the controversial status of tree-kangaroos.</p>		<p>ROOM FOR YOUR VIEW</p> <p>Please write in and give us your point of view on matters that concern the Tree-Kangaroos or other mammals.</p>	

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO

There are a number of organisations that are working to help the Victorian wildlife, here are a few that have been brought to our attention:

OZARK is one of the organisations trying to coordinate efforts to assist animal bushfire victims.

Through many years service Ozark has become respected and trusted in the wildlife rehabilitation community, providing education, information and communication responsibly, and with appropriate checks and balances to ensure quality and up-to-date resources. Ozark continues to grow and evolve as a vital and unifying service, which directly aids and benefits our unique and vulnerable wildlife.

Ozark Incorporated
PO Box 589
Woy Woy NSW 2256

<http://www.ozarkwild.org/news.php>

Drop off point for items to go to Colleen Wood & WRAP
Emcar Automotive
295 Belgrave-Gembrook Rd
Emerald, 3782 Vic Ph.(03)59 686031

Bushfire Appeals for Wildlife
Help for Wildlife Bushfire Appeal
PO Box 181, Coldstream, Vic, 3770
Online Direct Deposit Details:
Account: Help for Wildlife
BSB 013 223 Account: 5557 27596

<http://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/cms/>

<http://www.canyouhelp.com.au>

Nigel's Animal Rescue
http://www.animalrescue.com.au/fire_crisis.php

http://www.wildcardart.com.au/Mahogany_Glider/Vic_Bushfire_Wildlife_Donation/vic_bushfire_wildlife_donation.html

MM

It's your page kids, send in your ideas or create a puzzle for us to try? There are important things we need to learn & share about our Tree-Kangaroos and other mammals, so let's make it fun.

Kids

Page

Find these words in our MM Word Find

- ❖ Tree -kangaroo
- ❖ Tails
- ❖ Mammals
- ❖ Quoll
- ❖ Nocturnal
- ❖ Mabi Forest
- ❖ Claws
- ❖ Lumholtz
- ❖ Endangered
- ❖ Silkwood
- ❖ Leaves
- ❖ Macropod
- ❖ Bennetts
- ❖ Boongary
- ❖ Flowers
- ❖ Rare

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 p o l u m h o l t z z a o

Drawing by William Cooper

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 : Have you got a great story, picture, photo or idea? Send It in, we'll be
 : giving away a cool prize each issue for the best one!
 : Lets us know if your school has got any interesting things coming up.
 :



The Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group

presents

**‘From ‘Rare’ to ‘Vulnerable’?
Updating the Conservation Status of
Lumholtz’s Tree-kangaroo’**

A talk by

Dr. John Grant

President, Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group

At the Malanda Hotel,
7.30pm, March 5th





MEDIA RELEASE

FNQ2025 Little Help for the Wallaby's Plight

Fri Jan 30 2009

The Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) calls for the State Government to avert a White Rock Wallaby tragedy by committing to rigorous statutory protection for critical wildlife habitat and corridors. Many of the Far North's unique wildlife species face a similar fate to White Rock's wallabies, but the State Government still refuses to introduce dedicated legislation to help ensure the future survival of wildlife on our urban fringes.

The FNQ2025 Draft Regional Plan, the latest planning reform proposed for our region by the State Government, will not provide adequate safeguards to save the White Rock wallabies from their current plight and will do little to prevent this scenario being repeated for other iconic species over and over again. Unless wildlife corridors and critical habitat have specific legal protection, they will continue to be compromised out of existence.

"In White Rock, as in much of Queensland, urban development has been allowed to proceed with little or no thought to the long term needs of (delete the word "the") local wildlife populations. Only now, after the problem has reached crisis point, do the implications of those past decisions become apparent. Unless wildlife corridors are identified and protected from development we will see this pattern repeated until there nothing left of our natural local identity to protect," said Steve Ryan, Campaign Director for CAFNEC.

The SEQ Regional Plan failed to protect koala habitat and just last year the State Government had take delayed action to secure koala corridors and to prevent domestic dog attacks. Clearly the government has failed to introduce the necessary statutory habitat protection measures under its regional planning push and placed a Band Aid solution on a dying patient.

Wallabies in White Rock and Trinity Beach areas are under extreme pressure due to the continued loss of their habitat. In Trinity Beach, development continued to encroach on wallaby habitat despite wildlife corridors being identified and included in Council Planning Schemes. However, no real protection was granted, and as these measures had only an advisory role we have seen rapid deterioration of wallaby populations. Wildlife crossings for the Highway were promised but never built, and developments which clearly block these corridors continued to be approved.

The final FNQ 2025 Regional Plan is yet to be released, so there is still time for the Bligh Government to act and avoid the tragic dilemmas facing the wallabies of Cairns, the cassowaries of the Far North, the koalas of the South east and the rest of our many threatened and endangered species.

**For more information contact:
Steve Ryan 0425 344 746**

The TKMG website -
www.tree-kangaroo.net
is maintained on
a volunteer basis by
www.pesavento.biz



What's On?

TKMG Presentation

Thursday March 5th

From 'Rare' to 'Vulnerable'

Malanda Hotel 7.30PM

TKMG Public Meeting

Thursday March 5th

Malanda Hotel 7.30PM

All welcome - Supper (gold coin donation)



Lumholtz tree-kangaroo, Malanda Falls Photo by Colleen Creaney

Send in your Mammal Photo for this spot



Drawing by William Cooper

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