



Bushy Tales

We rescue, care for and procure treatment for sick, injured or orphaned Native Wildlife, with the aim of releasing them back to their natural habitat.



Chairperson's Comments

2023 is almost at a close and what a busy year it has been. Although we have been busy, we have managed to see our successful organisation through its first year and are growing from strength to strength.

To our members who have tirelessly helped care for our wildlife, a huge thank you for your time and care. Without you we would not have been successful.

To the committee members I would like to thank each and every one of you for your dedication to run our organization. Most of our committee members spend many hours each week organising fundraising, training, phones, memberships, animal transportation, finances and much more.

We are lucky to have so many volunteers who give their time freely. Also, most of the committee are hands on carers themselves, juggling caring for wildlife and also administration work.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish you all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Regards
Nuria
Chairperson



IMPORTANT NOTICES

AVAILABILITY OVER CHRISTMAS

If you are currently on call for rescues but will not be available over Christmas, please ensure you advise the Membership Officer the dates you will be unavailable. Also, if you have been off call but are now available, please advise the Membership Officer: At email: membership@sanar.org.au

Thank you

TRAINING

Members will be put in touch with experienced carers for their chosen species. Our trainers will do 1 on 1 or small group training, providing new carers the opportunity for hands on experience and knowledge that larger workshops don't provide.

All our trainers have years of hands-on experience with their chosen species.

New carers will then be buddied up and mentored by an Area Educational Supervisor or have the choice to stay in touch with the trainer.

Carer mentoring will also provide the experience required to apply for a Wildlife Carer Permit for their chosen species.

From the Editor

Wishing you all a very Happy and Safe Christmas Season.

If you have any interesting or funny stories for our newsletter, please forward them via email to:

newsletter@sanar.org.au

Please ensure that any documents are prepared in Word format (doc or docx) and any photos are resized to small size before sending.

Thank you,
Jean



SANAR RESCUE LINE [\(08\) 7170 3924](tel:0871703924)

PO Box 191, Morphett Vale, SA 5162

Email: info@sanar.org.au Website: <https://sanativeanimalrescue.org.au>

SANAR Carers & Volunteers Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/632699085286619>

A message from the Adelaide Koala and Wildlife Centre

The Adelaide Koala & Wildlife Centre provides free vet services to injured, sick and orphaned wildlife at our Centre in Plympton. 282 Anzac Hwy, Plympton SA 5038; Phone (08) 8297 2455.

We treat injured or orphaned wildlife with the aim of rehabilitation and release, whilst also participating in a variety of educational programs for students, carers and vet students.



CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

As the holiday season approaches, we want to ensure that everyone is well-informed about our Holiday Period opening hours. Please pass this information onto your team members so they are kept informed as well.

- From Saturday, December 23rd, 2023, through Monday, January 1st, 2024, our clinic will be closed to allow our hardworking staff a well-deserved break. We will resume regular operations on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024.
- On our first day back, Tuesday, January 2nd, we will be providing a drop-off service only as we anticipate it could be busy. To help us manage this effectively, we kindly request that you call in advance from 9am on Tuesday, to schedule drop-offs and emergencies. Your cooperation will enable us to plan our day efficiently and prioritize cases appropriately.
- During this holiday period, our veterinary team will also be taking a break. We appreciate your understanding and kindly request that you refrain from contacting them directly during this time.
- In the event of any emergencies, we recommend seeking assistance from the nearest emergency vet clinic, such as AAERC or SASH who will be available to provide immediate care.

As we approach this festive season, we want to extend our heartfelt wishes to each and every one of you. May you have a joyous, safe, and stress-free Christmas and New Year. We sincerely appreciate your continued trust and support, and we look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Best Regards,
The AKAWC Team



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IMPORTANT NOTICES

Food for Wildlife at Special Prices

Please note that Food Suppliers will be closed over the Christmas period.

Kimberley can accept orders until **Tuesday 19 December**. Further orders can only be placed after Wednesday 3 January 2024.

Please contact Kimberley at info@sanar.org.au

SUPPORT FOR WILDLIFE CARERS AND RESCUERS

The following two organizations provide mental health assistance to all Wildlife Carers and Rescuers to help them cope with the stress they may need to deal with in caring for our native wildlife. Please contact them if you need assistance.

DEW Wildlife Carer Permits

All Carers are required by the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) to have a Wildlife Carer Permit. Please forward a copy of your 2023 Wildlife Permit to:
membership@sanar.org.au.

If you don't have a permit and are interested in obtaining one please contact: permit.advisor@sanar.org.au or phone DEW Fauna Permits on 08 81244972.



Two Green Threads is on a mission to inspire, support and rejuvenate the many individuals who invest so much of themselves helping native wildlife.

Two Green Threads is a registered national charity created to energize and inspire the service of our wildlife volunteers, enabling a supported and resilient tribe of individuals and wildlife groups looking after our native wildlife.

Learn more about Two Green Threads at [Two Green Threads – Supporting Wildlife Carers](https://www.twogreenthreads.org)
www.twogreenthreads.org

Police Clearance

A Police clearance or DHS Screening is compulsory for all Carers and Volunteers of SANAR.

A free DHS screening is available to all SANAR members. Please contact membership@sanar.org.au

Animal Containers

Should any members need cages or animal carriers, please contact Nuria at info@sanar.org.au

SANAR can offer Wildlife information talks/ presentations to schools and community groups, If you know of any groups that would be interested in booking a talk, please advise them to contact info@sanar.org.au. Thank you



If you need support, we are here for you.

WildTalk—1300 307 111

Email - info@wildtalk.org.au

WildTalk has been set up to help people working with Australian wildlife in a volunteer or paid capacity.



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From its humble beginnings, The Australian Firefighters Calendar was established in 1993 to support the Children's Hospital Foundation, providing funds for research into childhood burns. Now in its 31st year, The Australian Firefighters Calendar has raised over \$3.45 million for various charities.

The Australian Firefighters Calendar is the perfect gift for birthdays, Christmas or any other occasion to show someone how much you care or, better still, spoil yourself! (29cm x 24cm (11.42" x 9.45")).

The Australian Firefighters Organization has kindly donated a quantity of their 2024 Animal Calendar for SANAR to sell to raise funds for the ongoing care of our native wildlife. All proceeds will go to pay for food, vet treatment and species specific housing.

Calendars Cost \$20 and are available from the following SANAR Members (while stocks are available):

Nuria Solsona - Clovelly Park -
email: chairperson@sanar.org.au

Kimberley Raoux - Blackwood -
email: admin@sanar.org.au

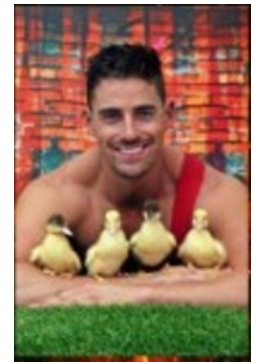
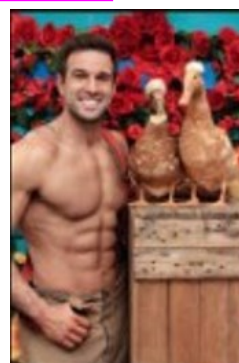
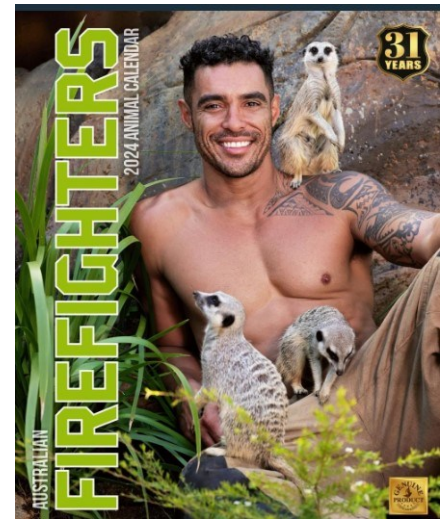
Charlotte Faulhaber - Hallet Cove -
email: secretary@sanar.org.au

Jane Darling - The Range -
email: membership@sanar.org.au

Tracy Heritage - Auburn -
email: fundraising@sanar.org.au

Jean Smith - Seacliff Park -
email: newsletter@sanar.org.au

Please find attached link to the [Behind the Scenes filming of the Firefighters 2024 Animal Calendar](#) for your enjoyment. (When link is open click on picture to play)



Hints and Tips

- To save time making up Lorikeet wet mix every day, you can make up a week's worth and freeze it. Large ice cube containers are ideal. You can defrost as required or, in the hot weather, the Lorikeets love to eat the melting frozen cubes, which also stay fresher as they gradually defrost. It is also advisable to put a bowl of dry mix (Complete Lorikeet) next to a bowl of water so they can mix their own (which they do), as the wet mix can go sour in the heat.
- Nectar eating birds feed up in the trees. You should therefore not feed on the ground, nor put chopped fruit in a bowl on the ground. Hang fruit from branches or cage wire. Also you can put lorikeet mix in a bowl in a hanging basket saucer of water. This will help deter ants—although nothing will stop them.
- Don't feed birds or possums vegetables from the cabbage family (Brussel sprouts). These vegetables contain an acid that can kill birds.
- Don't feed avocado to birds, or Iceberg lettuce to anything.

- Kill meal worms before feeding to baby birds. Mum bird would do this for them in the wild. A live meal worm can bite and burrow into the throat of a baby bird.
- Remove large, sharp bits of bone from minced chicken carcass (pet mince) before feeding to magpies or other insectivores as it can cut their throat.
- Baby ducks are not waterproof when they first hatch. They get their waterproofing from hiding under mum duck and her oil rubs into their down. So orphaned ducklings should not be put in water to swim, only given a shallow bowl for drinking. Once they start preening themselves their oil glands will be activated.
- Dandelion plants (the weed) are an excellent natural tonic for birds, providing they are pesticide and cat and dog urine free. The whole plant can be used; flower, root and all (washed).
- With all the heat of summer yet to come, you will find your aviaries will stay a lot cooler by painting the roof and sides white to reflect the heat. You can also use shade cloth or similar material to prevent the sun from beating directly onto the metal.



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WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDENS

To support wildlife in our gardens we need to think first about creating a garden that is friendly to insects and reptiles. That means no chemicals and no cats. At soil level, mulch provides protection for a range of foods for smaller birds and animals. The occasional pile of bricks will help support the small geckos and skinks that are rapidly disappearing in suburbia. The latest fashions for modern type gardens are often fairly sterile. Bushes that you wouldn't want to put your arm into such as Boxthorns, Nitre bushes and prickly Acacias are necessary for small birds to give them protection from predators. Smaller house blocks and larger houses leave less room for growing bigger shrubs and trees. Acacias, Callistemon and Grevilleas are usually recommended for lorikeets and honeyeaters, however, local nurseries can advise what is best suited to plant in your own area. In general, if we want the larger creatures in our gardens we need to provide a habitat that encourages and protects the smaller creatures.



Callistemon (Bottle Brush)



Wattle (Acacias)



Grevillea

Introducing the Yellow Footed Antechinus

INTERESTING FACTS:

Antechinus are Marsupials.

They are a Protected Species.

They are classified as vulnerable in South Australia.

Their back feet have a thumb (like the rat) however, have no claw on this thumb.

They have small cat-like teeth.

Breeding season is once a year in August/September.

When the males have matured at roughly 10mths to a year, during breeding season, they spend approximately 2 weeks visiting any females in their territory. They frantically spend that 2weeks mating, then the males die from exhaustion. The females will generally live for 2 breeding seasons.

Antechinus have the biggest litter of any Australian marsupial, averaging eight to ten babies. The females have tiny pouches and the joeys hang from her teats outside of the pouch, she looks like she is carrying tiny jellybeans on her belly.

Once they are too big to carry, the female makes a leaf nest in a tree hollow and leaves the joeys there. She then moves to a communal nest that is shared with other females and regularly returns to feed her joeys. The females will have 2-3 nests in the area to choose from and will move their joeys from one nest to another if they feel threatened. Females will return to these nests every season. When the joeys are weaned, they start to come out of the nest and forage for insects.

Also known as a marsupial mouse, this small carnivorous marsupial snacks on insects, reptiles, and sometimes even mice.

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The Yellow Footed Antechinus *continued*

The trouble is, antechinus look similar to a normal house mouse. But being a native and vulnerable species, they cannot be subjected to pest control.

Antechinus are most commonly found in stringy bark forests in the Morialta Conservation Park or conservation parks on the Fleurieu Peninsula and Central Mount Lofty Ranges regions.

So, if you're living on the Fleurieu Peninsula or the Adelaide Hills region (as far north as Para Wirra Conservation Park), it's possible that what you think is a mouse in your house, could potentially be an antechinus.

How can you tell the difference between an antechinus and a mouse?

The quickest way to tell the difference between an antechinus and a mouse is by looking at their head.

An antechinus has a much pointier, long, narrow snout, unlike a mouse, which has a round head and nose.

They are also larger than a mouse, with the body length of an antechinus up to 165 millimetres long, it also has a tail that is approximately the same length as its body.

They also have a white ring of fur around their eyes, doubled lobed ears, and yellow feet, legs and bellies.

While mice and rats create a musky smell, antechinus have no lingering odour.

Antechinus scats are also very different to house mouse scats. They are much larger and cylindrical shaped. As their diet consists of insects (including spiders and cockroaches), small lizards and berries. Visible on the surface of the antechinus scat should be different types of fragmented insect parts

SANAR'S First Encounter with Antechinus

In late October this year, SANAR received a phone call from a member of the public. They thought they had found 9 baby possums while clearing some of their land around their house. One of our possum carers spoke with the homeowner and requested some pictures.



Our carer advised that they were some kind of mouse/rat but was unsure so she contacted another experienced carer and sent the photos.

After much discussion, it was decided to pick up this litter of tiny creatures and investigate further.

A lot of google and YouTube was involved, and finally, the conclusion was that these little animals were Yellow Footed Antechinus.

As there were 9, it was a case of divide and feed. They were all 5g and needed to be fed every 5hrs. One of the carers was lucky enough to have their identity confirmed by Wildlife Vet Dr Anne Fowler, who advised that they needed to be fed on Kangaroo >0.7 (higher fat content).

Unfortunately, 2 passed away, as they go into a torpor and stop breathing. However, the 7 that survived, 2 females and 5 males, thrived. They were housed in an incubator as they were very tiny and couldn't heat regulate; they quickly grew to 14g.

During that time their facial and body characteristics changed, and they clearly started to look like little Antechinus.



One of the carers went in search of a vivarium in which to house them until they could be released. She was fortunate to have a large vivarium donated to SANAR from Marine Plus Aquariums at Lonsdale.

Leaf litter, a tree hollow and small bird box were put in the vivarium. The females immediately setup home in the bird box and the males happily took the tree hollow.

Long pieces of bark and some small branches with leaves and flowers were put in. —The antechinus love to explore and climb.

They are now living on a varied diet, including kangaroo milk formula, mealworms, crickets (which they enjoy searching for), earthworms and some occasional bird seed.



They are constantly active and have some interesting behaviours. When fresh bark is provided, the males frantically go about marking the territory and take time to explore every new piece of bark and branches that are put into the vivarium.

They will soon be released back to the location they were found, as this is their territory and will be populated by other yellow footed antechinus.

Written by Charlotte



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The Story of Squirt

Anyone who has had the pleasure of rearing a rainbow lorikeet will know how 'Squirt' got his name.

One day at work a colleague, Rick, contacted me to say that he



had found a bird lying on the road outside of our work building and had just moved it to the undergrowth at the side of the road, was that alright? I said no, it would need to be checked for injuries if it was just lying motionless, - if it was still alive. So, down we went to get this bird. We searched the area of undergrowth where Rick had thought he had put the bird. Unfortunately, one patch looks much like the next, so our search went further field. No sign of the bird until Rick called out that he had found it, it had fallen through the undergrowth so was hidden.

When I picked up the little juvenile Rainbow lorikeet (still with a black beak) I thought it was dead, not a sound or a movement, although there was some warmth in the body. Then its eye moved. I quickly put it in the cardboard box I had brought with me and took it back to work. I put it on a hot water bottle (wrapped in a towel) and dribbled honey water in its beak with a syringe (always having emergency supplies in my desk), then put it in our sick room, checking it regularly until I could go home. That evening I took it to the vet, there had still been no sign of movement or sound except for his eyes looking at me. The vet said it was a severe concussion and the bird was so flat that it would probably die, but because the poor creature was not in any pain, we decided to give it a go.

Knowing that Vitamin B (Berocca) was good for the brain I decided to try this. A quarter of a Berocca tablet dissolved in a small amount of water and left to go flat – this would last in the fridge for 2 days.

Out came the heat box and the bird, who had not yet acquired his name, was propped up in a dog bowl padded with a multitude of tissues and a rolled-up nappy (old nappies come in very handy when dealing with small creatures).

The nappy was rolled up and made into a U-shape so that the bird could be propped up rather than lying on his side. Fortunately, being a long weekend, I didn't have to stress the bird out by taking it to work with me but could spend the next 3 days giving it intensive care insitu. The Berocca mix was added to each feed of lori mix. By the end of the weekend the bird was drinking the lori mix without a syringe and, as long as I propped up the bowl on an angle so that he could reach it without moving, he was feeding himself. I went to work on Tuesday in great trepidation, hoping I had made the right decision to leave him in his box with a bowl of easily reachable lori mix, rather than stress him by taking him to work with me. That night the bowl was nearly empty!

Of course, what goes in one end must come out the other and, for the next 2 weeks it seemed I just had a poop machine.....This is when 'Squirt' got his name.

Still no sound or body movement, although he was eating very well, so there were signs of improvement. The day I was cleaning him and got a half-hearted squawk was certainly a day for celebration. A few days after this he started shuffling around his heat box. He had some movement in one leg but the other was still paralysed. Improvement was slow but sure with the help of some physio to his legs. He spent about 5 to 6 weeks in his heat box until he was able to stand on his own, without the aid of his nappies, and was perching, albeit lopsided, on a small branch in the heat box.

Squirt went from strength to strength over the next few months and, although very tame, started behaving like a normal Rainbow lorikeet.

Another Rainbow, who had been in care for some time with another carer due to a broken beak, had grown very attached to another Rainbow with whom he was sharing accommodation. When a third bird was introduced to the family, the one with the broken beak became very upset and started to pluck his feathers. So broken beak, who I named 'Squawk' came to live with Squirt'.

Squirt and Squawk took to each other right away. There is no sign now of Squirt's gammy leg or Squawk's broken beak and I cannot tell them apart. They are far too tame to release after their adventures with humans, however they certainly sound like they are enjoying life, behaving like normal noisy lorikeets, occasionally letting me know who is in charge with a 'dare I say' gentle nip.

I guess the moral of this story is 'where there is life there is hope' and perseverance does sometimes pay off.

Written by Jean



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Controversial Issues!



A message from Suzanne Pope, SAFA

Urgent - we need lots of responses to the dreadful duck shooting report

The Select Committee on Hunting Native Birds has published a report, basically recommending "business as usual" in duck shooting. It is a thin and unprofessional report, based on party lines rather than evidence, so we must strenuously oppose it. The report is attached - it is very short so doesn't take long to read and I advise you to have a look. I think the work experience kid could have done a better job.

Here is some media on the report

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/8461093/opponents-shoot-down-duck-hunting-report-as-a-failure/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-12-15/sa-parliamentary-committee-recommends-duck-hunting-to-stay-legal/103233012>

We need to get as many letters as possible to Minister Susan Close to express our disgust -- this committee has been a waste of time and taxpayers' money. Please write to her at

OfficeoftheDeputyPremier@sa.gov.au and maybe cc the Premier as well at Premier@sa.gov.au.

REMEMBER Minister Susan Close is on side, but needs ammunition to fight the dominant right faction in her party, so please be polite.



Australian shelducks, also called mountain ducks, mate for life.

When one of these ducks is shot, it not only destroys a magnificent bird, but also a lifelong bond

Continued in next column

Here are some ideas to include:

- After receiving hundreds of pages of written submissions and many hours of oral testimony, the Select Committee on the Hunting of Native Birds has produced a lightweight and flawed report.
- Unlike the majority of the Committee, Tammy Franks and Ian Hunter in their dissenting statements highlighted the central issue in duck shooting -- **inevitable wounding and suffering, and on that basis recommended a ban.**
- The 11 recommendations put forward by the majority report are a pathetic band-aid applied to an open wound. They do nothing to address the fundamental issue of wounding and suffering.
- The majority report also misconstrues public opinion about duck shooting. It states: "*There is conflicting evidence on whether the broader SA community supports or is against native bird hunting, with surveys showing different results.*" **Every single survey conducted by a professional polling organisation shows a majority of voters opposed to duck shooting.** This cannot be compared to an amateur shooter survey conducted among their supporters which shows a 90% support for duck shooting. Is the Committee so ignorant that it cannot tell the difference? It's like saying opinions on climate change are divided. Yes, but are they of equal value?
- The report is based on party lines rather than the evidence presented and so is totally inadequate as a basis for future government policy. Duck shooting must be banned on the basis of inevitable cruelty and the community rejection of such cruelty.

PLEASE PLEASE send off an email to the Minister, no matter how simple. Encourage your friends to do the same.

If you would like a more detailed critique of the report, go to:

<https://southaussiesforanimals.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/SA-Native-Bird-Hunting-report-response.pdf>

Apart from responding to the dreadful duck shooting report, we would also like your help by writing to the Minister to **STOP** the 2024 Duck and Quail Hunting Season.

To assist you, a letter has already been prepared and just needs you to provide your details—See the attached link to the SAFA website

<https://southaussiesforanimals.org.au/actions/stop-the-2024-duck-and-quail-season/>



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Thank you
so much to our kind
supporters for your
generosity



*Thank you for the many
donations received from
members of the public;*



**Adelaide
Koala & Wildlife
Centre**



Southern Vet Group

MORPHETT VALE --- MARION --- PLYMPTON



safa
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FOR ANIMALS



Thank you Scott Piper
of Adelaide Business
Bureaux, for providing
all the Printing needs



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