



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

To all our members, I hope you had a very happy Christmas and New Year, and thank you for all your hard work during 2023.

Due to the strange and unexpected weather we experienced during the latter part of 2023 birds and animals were confused about their breeding season and many out of season orphans came into care. However it seems baby bird season is finally at an end. Hopefully 2024 will see the season clock soon return to normal—that is if we stop exacerbating climate change by destroying the native habitat of our precious wildlife.

Although we have been busy, we have managed to see our successful organisation through a very trying 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.

Regards

Nuria

Chairperson

Congratulations Tracy



The Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council have awarded an Australia Day and Volunteer of the Year Award to Tracy Heritage from Auburn for her work with wildlife conservation.

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of SA Native Animal Rescue (SANAR) Inc. No responsibility is taken for any actions or outcomes from information within this publication.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

CARER / TRANSPORTER AVAILABILITY

If you have been on holiday and unavailable over the Christmas period, but are now or will soon be available for rescues and/or transportation, please advise the Membership Officer the dates you will be available from. Also, if you have been available over the holidays but need to go off call please advise the Membership Officer the dates you will be off call - At email: membership@sanar.org.au

TRAINING

New 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

I hope you all had 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



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IMPORTANT NOTICES



Please find attached link to the [Behind the Scenes](#) filming of the Firefighters 2024 Animal Calendar for your enjoyment.

Yes, we know it is March already.... but it is not too late to obtain your **2024 Firefighter Calendar**

(29cm x 24cm (11.42" x 9.45"))

We still have a small number of Calendars available and now at the special reduced price of only \$10,

Calendars are available from Jean. Please email me at: newsletter@sanar.org.au

Jean

Newsletter Editor

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Bunnings Sausage Sizzle –

Keep a lookout for SANAR's next Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Edwardstown, Date to be advised.



Birds for adoption

Homes wanted for un-releasable birds. SANAR is often asked to take on various pet birds that have been found but whose owners cannot be found, or other relinquished pets whose owners can no longer care for them.

If you are interested in helping these tame birds by giving them a new home, please contact: Nuria at species.liaison@sanar.org.au

Birds needing help (and possums)

Birds can get into all kinds of trouble. String entanglement, broken legs/feet, Beak and Feather disease to name but a few of them.

It can be difficult to catch birds that can still fly. SANAR can help with the use of traps for these birds. (Possums as well). A rescuer will work with you to provide the best possible outcome. We have had many successes with this method and we'll do our best, along with wildlife vets, to get these animals well and hopefully back home.

If you need help to catch a sick or injured bird, please contact: Nuria at species.liaison@sanar.org.au



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Food for Wildlife at Special Prices

To obtain food for wildlife at special prices, please contact Kimberley at info@sanar.org.au

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 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.

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

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.



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](http://www.twogreenthreads.org)
www.twogreenthreads.org



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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Alphie, Our local Koala

This is a tribute to Alphie.

Alphie moved into our backyard when he was an energetic young boy. I saw him on many occasions in his favourite tree and he used to like to sit on the possum box that I had put there. Eventually the possum box started to deteriorate so Alphie had to find another spot in the tree.

As a koala carer I often had other koalas in my aviary. Alphie used sit in the tree next to the aviary and serenade the female koalas that I had in care and, on occasions, the females used to call back to him.

On two occasions I have had Alphie in care. In 2014 he was severely dehydrated during a very hot summer. I picked him up and took him to the Adelaide Koala and Wildlife Centre (AKAWC) where they rehydrated him and, after a few days he was released happy and hydrated again. In 2017 he was accidentally hit by a car by a neighbour. The neighbour's driveway is steep and he did not see Alphie sitting in the middle of the driveway. I got a phone call with my husband saying he was hit so I left work and rescued him with my husband. He then went in for a checkup at the AKAWC. After examination he was given the all clear. Alphie had bruising all over his body. I had him in care for a while until the pain subsided, then released him in his usual spot.

I actually even saw Alphie mate with one of his local girls and have seen his offspring. He was a kind and gentle koala. Over the years Alphie has lived a wonderful life.

One day I was on my way to the AKAWC with another koala I had in care and happened to see Alphie surrounded by a group of people. I stopped to check and realized he was struggling with walking and also had a wet bum. Once again, I picked him up and took him to the AKAWC. After examination they discovered that Alphie had gut issues and diarrhoea and his teeth were quite worn down—eventually he wouldn't be able to chew his leaves.

Sadly, Alphie went to koala heaven as he would have struggled in the end being an older koala.

I worked out that he would be around 14 years old.

I look in the trees in my backyard and miss you sitting in your favourite tree and calling out to your girls.

Rest in Peace Alphie.

I have learned so much from Alphie by observing his behaviour including towards other koalas and people.

Written by Dina – Possum and Koala Carer



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NATIVE BUSH RATS

Scientific name: Rattus fuscipes

SANAR received a telephone call from a lady in McLaren Vale who had found 5 bush rats alone in an abandoned car with no mother in sight. The MOP called SANAR and the Native bush rats went into care. When we first received them, we had to make sure they were native and not the common black rat. They were quite hard to identify so Jill and I did a lot of research and confirmed that they were Native Bush Rats and not the black rat which are non-native to Australia.

We learnt a lot about them and enjoyed caring for and rehabilitating them into the wild.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BUSH RATS

The Bush Rat is a small omnivorous rodent found across Australia in woodland areas. Nocturnal and elusive. Their numbers continue to decline due to feral predator predation and habitat loss.

Native bush rats are much shyer animals than the non-native rats. They do not like to be around humans and noise. They prefer to shelter in the dense understory, sheltering in short burrows under logs and rocks and line their nests with grass. They make several tunnels for escape routes. They have not been found in urban areas for many years.

One of the biggest threats to the Native bush rat is predation by introduced foxes and cats. Evidence suggests that the incidence of fire can increase predation of Native bush rats due to the removal of undergrowth in which they are usually able to hide.



Native Bush Rat Habitat



The best way to tell the difference between a Native bush rat and an introduced black rat is to have a look at the tail and the body length. Native bush rats have a tail shorter or equal to their body length and rounded ears as described below. Introduced rats have a tail longer than their body length with little hair on their tails.

Bush Rats are rarely seen due to the dense habitat in which they live, and their shy and solitary nature. They are territorial, but during spring and summer travel great distances to forage and mate, with males covering distances of up to a kilometre each night.

Identification

- Front teeth** – one pair of distinctive chisel shaped incisors with hard yellow enamel on front surfaces.
- Head** – Rounded head and a blunt shaped nose.
- Ears** – Rounded ears
- Tail** – Relatively short tail, same length as their body or shorter. Brown to black, almost free of hair.
- Feet** – Pink-grey feet.
- Colouring** – Grey to grey-brown or reddish above, grey or cream below, dense soft fur.

Feeding and diet

The Native Bush Rat is an omnivore and eats fungi, grasses, fruits, seeds and insects.

Written by Dina and Jill



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NOISY MINERS, are a protected Native Australian species and are one of the most misunderstood native birds in Australia.

Noisy Miners are very territorial; their groups are formed by family members; all members are dedicated to protecting their territory and their babies.

They are honeyeaters and, as such, they have an important role in the pollination of plants.

From a carer's point of view, baby Noisy Miners are not difficult to care for.

As babies, they don't show fear of people or of other baby birds. They have a friendly attitude and are a good companion to other orphan birds of similar size.

Babies will be accepted back by their own family group or any other unrelated family group.

Orphaned babies must be released quite young as age is a decisive factor in the successful release of these young birds. Adults and older fledglings will not be accepted, they will be attacked and killed.

So, injured adults that can't be released back into their own family group in a very short time, cannot be released anywhere else. Adults that come into care without an address to go back to are un-releasable. Only juveniles can be successfully returned to the wild.

Keeping wild adults in captivity alone is cruel, as they need to be part of a group to survive. If you try to put two or more unrelated adults together, they will kill each other.

They are often accused of taking the territory of other smaller honeyeaters. The reality is that they are a successful species which takes advantage of our changing environment - caused by humans. Other honeyeaters and smaller birds need a larger area of scrub and low vegetation to survive. As we continue to destroy these scrub areas—which are necessary for these other small species, they will continue to disappear. The loss of these small species is sometimes blamed on Noisy Miners which are more adaptable to new environments.

If anyone is interested in becoming a carer of these adorable babies, please get in contact with me, as the technique for releasing is different from other birds.

Nuria,

species.liaison@sanar.org.au

PLEASE NOTE: NOISY MINERS should not be confused with the introduced Indian Mynah (or common Myna) which have not yet invaded South Australia but are currently only found in the Eastern States.



Continued on next page



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Controversial Issues!



Duck hunting protest organized by Animal Liberation SA

As you may be aware, some of us will be going to wetlands on the first day of the duck shooting season to film the cruelty.

Not everyone can be there, but if you can't there is something else you can do to show your opposition to this cruelty - attend the rally at Parliament House.

We know that the majority of people are opposed to duck shooting. It is important to underline this point by having a good turnout for the rally. Please be there if you can!

SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2024 at 11 AM
SNAP RALLY—Duck Shooting Season Starting.
In front of Parliament House, Adelaide

A walking protest from the steps of Parliament House to Victoria Square. We MUST let the government know we are extremely shocked at the lack of impartiality at their Duck Shooting inquiry - **an inquiry which saw 4 of the 7 committee member wined and dined by the top hunter alliance in SA** - the Conservation and Hunting Alliance. Since their final recommendation that hunting be allowed to continue the government has approved a full hunter season for ducks and quail with an **INCREASED** bag limit of 10 ducks per hunter each day!



This year's duck season will open on 16 March and run until the end of June. Greens MLC Tammy Franks, one of those calling for a ban, said earlier this year that the government was now "severely out of step with most of the community on this issue".

"Duck hunting is nothing but recreational cruelty. Why the Malinauskas government would perpetuate a so-called sport that causes suffering for animals is beyond me," she said. "Duck hunting is a relic of our past and it should stay there."

It is, as she put it, a "murderous pastime" - but has not attracted the same level of outrage as the current plight of the Kangaroo Island koalas.

The government on Wednesday announced the use of bows and crossbows to hunt and kill animals will be outlawed later this year. Dr Close said the ban was an election commitment that "reflects community sentiment about the welfare of animals".

The logical next step is a ban on duck hunting.

Let 2024 be the last season that ducks are subject to such barbarity.

The Minister wants to ban duck shooting but doesn't have the numbers in her party. I suggest we all write to the Premier and refer to the piece in the Advertiser. It says all the right things about catching up to the other states and acknowledging the strong community expectation for a ban.

The **KOALA KILLINGS** on Kangaroo Island has not only caused outrage in South Australia and Australia, but also worldwide condemnation which has reportedly caused drastic consequences to the tourist industry on the Island. The Advertiser published an article on 7 March a link to which you will find in the SANAR covering email.

The Kangaroo Island koala crisis exposed by 7NEWS is at the centre of a criminal investigation as RSPCA inspectors arrive on the island.

The government has rushed through new powers allowing it to halt logging at the plantations where dozens of koalas have been killed.



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Controversial Issues! continued

This long weekend, the weather here in Adelaide will be searing, with temperatures reaching 40 degrees.



The Grey-headed flying foxes (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and play an important role in helping conserve our many native plant species by dispersing native seeds and pollen.

*In Botanic Park, **WOMAD** has decided to turn off the sprinklers that keep the bats cool.*

This would cause many bats to overheat, die and fall from trees onto the ground.

With public pressure and the amazing work from Bat Rescue SA, we understand they have agreed to turn them on between acts.

But still, it just demonstrates the little regard for these vulnerable animals.



Tell the Albanese Government to **ACT NOW** to confirm *and* legislate an end date for the live sheep trade by sea, delivering on its 2022 election promise.

Despite all of our collective efforts, the Federal Department of Agriculture has approved the return journey of the MV Bahijah to Israel.


15,000 sentient animals are once again condemned to suffer on this vessel for over a month. By the end of their ordeal, they will have spent at least 2 and a half months at sea. This is the longest journey any Australian animals have had to endure.

And on arrival to their destination, they will experience more horror - and finally, death.

This cruelty has been endorsed by the Australian Labor Government. They refuse to legislate an end to live export.

This decision is devastating and unacceptable - but we can't give up.

Now is the time to stay strong and fight harder. We must channel our outrage into action and demand accountability and action from our elected Members of Parliament.

Take Action  https://www.animaljusticeparty.org/live-export-disaster?utm_campaign=lae_mv_bahijah_members_dogoode&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ajp

Tell them the live export issue will not be ignored!

The decision to grant the exporter another permit is a grave injustice that condemns these animals to further suffering. **We cannot stand idly by while such barbaric practices continue** to occur under the watch of the Australian government.

If you've already emailed your MPs, please follow [our Guide](#) on how you can take further action and maximise your impact.



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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**

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



Southern Vet Group

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