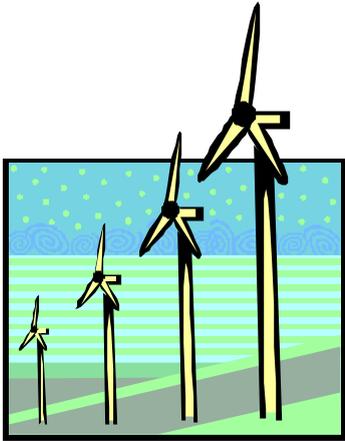


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WORLD BIRD JOURNAL

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Sharon Blair
0419 857 031 Modbury North

Anita Turton
8527 4024 Reeves Plains
Bev Langley
8270 1169 Cherry Gardens

Editors message

Well another deadline is fast approaching and I have a pile of washing that reaches the ceiling, I haven't put away the shopping from Monday and I haven't even had time for a cup of tea this morning. However all my animals and birds are tended to and now I am typing the next issue.

I know I am not alone in dedicating so much of my time towards the preservation of our feathered friends. I would presume that at least 98% of us have put aside more "normal" pursuits in aid of our Bird Care work.

So this issue is dedicated to you, yes you, to all of you that stress and sweat for our love of birds and receive little or no thanks. We would like you to know how much we appreciate you.

We also have a story on one of the hardest working members of our team, Bev Langley, news on the Corella management group and a little story about how to keep yourself from becoming extinct.

It sounds good but wait there's more... a story about the new windfarm project, the president's report and how things went at our initial fledgling day.

So take some time out of your busy schedule, grab a cup of tea and settle down with this month's issue.

Karen

Closing date for the September Magazine is August 29th.

Contents

Regular features

Bulletin board
Cheers Jeers
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Presidents report
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Bev Langley
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Wedge-tailed Eagle
Committee appointments 2003
Phone advice list

Bulletin Board

Museum Tour

*On Sunday June the 15th,
The South Australian
Museum will be giving an
exclusive tour of its Bird
Collection.*

*Please meet at 10.50 a.m.
at the security desk at the
front entrance.*

Bird Seed

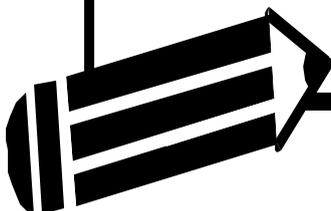
*If you need any bird seed
please contact Sharon.*

Available seed:

*small parrot
large parrot
budgie and
striped sunflower.*

Bird Statistics

*Please give your June
quarter rescue details to
Pam R. for collation
ph 8390 3254. Bird
rescues for March 2003
quarter = 901.*



Cheers

To

Leonie Phillips, Margaret and Oliver Fuller and Sharon Blair for all the effort that was put into fledgling day at Cleland

To the education staff and the reception staff at Cleland Fauna reserve for helping to make the day great fun.

A special gold star,
to all the partners of our Bird Care members. They help us out when we get frazzled or over worked and are always there with a cup of tea.

To our silent and ever-helpful partners, the conservation society, who are always happy to help out.



Special Thanks

To

Cheap As Chips for their incredible generous donation

Jeers

To

The individuals that poisoned a great deal of the city's pigeons and let them die a slow and painful death.

NB this society will never condone the senseless slaughter of any bird.

New members

Welcome aboard to the following new members. It will be a busy but rewarding journey.

Cheryl Milos, Maslin Beach
Andreas Riemakasten, Parafield Gardens
Trisha Scriven, Woodville



A message from our President.
[Otherwise known as the,]
President report 2003.

This has been another very busy year for the committee and I would like to thank them for their support.

Roy Bond is retiring from his committee position but has indicated that he will not only remain as our supply officer but will help the incoming committee should we need him. We have appreciated his support and advice especially when difficult decisions needed to be made.

A special thank you to Barrie Hodgson who is definitely the worlds greatest treasurer. We could not have a more honest and good man in this position and of course "behind every good man there is a good woman". A special thank you to Lesley who helps us with the photocopying etc. so that our meetings run smoothly. Barrie and Lesley have manned/ womanned the Bird Care mobile phone for well over twelve months!

Bob Hall once again has been a great support to all of the committee. His sense of fun and humour shine through his articles [and minutes]. His commitment to our society and a deep concern for the birds in trouble are self-evident and we are proud to have such a dedicated member.

Our vice president Karen brings such a welcome breath of fresh air to us oldies and in her new position of Editor has shown just how

talented she is. *Please stop I'm blushing.* Ed. The newly evolving 'Fledgling Club' that will automatically include the children/ grand children/ nieces and nephews of financial members will bring a more 'family friendly' feel to Bird Care and is her "baby" and the outing at Cleland will be the inauguration of it.

Leonie's empathy for the creatures she cares for and her deep commitment to those unfortunate animals brought to her is obvious and as with Karen she has also been instrumental in bringing the much welcomed breath of fresh air. Leonie held one of the Bird Care mobiles phones for well over twelve months.

It speaks well of Leonie's and Barrie's tolerance and patience in manning the mobiles that they are still members!! And of course Anne Peters and staff have helped for many years by providing us with one of their phone lines as the BCCS Adelaide phone number. Gold stars to all!!

I would like to thank our members who have supported us through donations, the Animal Welfare League for their donation of \$500.00 of food for our "patients" and of course a thank you to the RSPCA who provide us with a much needed \$50.00 per week "fee for service".

I would also like to say to our active members on the caller's list that you provide a service above and beyond what should be expected of you.

Those members who have provided the number and species of birds received [as requested by the RSPCA] will not be amazed to realise we cared for over 1300 birds in the Spring quarter.

So many of our members deserve a thank you and sadly there is little recognition from those who use us but we know how much work, money and

time you volunteer because of the compassion you feel for creatures who would otherwise be neglected by society.

The committee is very proud of the service you provide.

Sharon Blair
President
Bird Care & Conservation Society of
S.A. Inc.

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Our new endangered species

According to figures there has been a severe depletion in one of South Australia's most valuable and loved species. The Bird Care members are diminishing in sightings and we are seeing very few signs of their existence.

Experts are baffled on the reason why numbers should be decreasing in such a healthy environment but one of the main reasons given for the decrease is lack of reproduction. It seems that as older Bird Care members are retiring there are not enough new members to fill their place.

Bird Care magazine asked noted volunteerologist, Dr O Verworked why this could be happening at a time when Bird Care members are most sought after. He stated that "It is common in breeds of passionate dedication to try to take on too much and slowly burn themselves out." "It has always been much better for this species to take on a little less and thus increase their lifespan." he added.

When confronted with the fact that because of the declining species the remaining members feel that they have to work harder to accommodate for the lack of numbers, Dr. Verworked replied that this would be the eventual decline of Bird Care unless they can alter their way of existence.

When asked what can be done to stop the extinction of one of South Australia's most valuable volunteers Dr O Verworked gave us some important actions that will help.

- Always be aware of the fact that every little bit helps
- Sometimes it's better to do half as much for a few years than to do

everything and only last a few months.

- It is better to ask for some time out than to ask for retirement.
- You cannot effectively look after sick and injured birds when you are physically and mentally exhausted.

We also asked Dr O Verworkd what to watch for in a Bird Carer that may indicate that it is suffering .He gave us a list of symptoms that may indicate that the subject needs help.

- 1 anxiety and depression
- 2 loss of appetite
- 3 mood swings
- 4 poor sleep habits.

When you find one of these victims it may seem that they have lost control of their facilities and you may be encouraged to euthanise it to prevent it suffering, but there are a few thing you can do to eventually rehabilitate it and return it to its natural environment.

- 1 Relax the patient with a beverage (gin or scotch has been known to help in severe cases.)
- 2 Ask if you can help. [Be careful that the disease is not transferred to you].
- 3 Let other members of the species know that one among them is suffering.
- 4 Isolate the patient from other Bird Care members.

The basic message that we are trying to instil is that we need you, all of you and please take care of yourself.



Personality Profiles

Bev Langly.

When it comes to hard work and sacrifice, we must all tip our hats to Bev langley. Not only does she dedicate her life to saving and protecting fauna of all shapes and sizes, but also has to fight small minded people to continue doing her work.

Seventeen years ago Bev and her family bought a small hobby farm in Cherry Gardens. At first they only bred small poultry and coloured sheep. It wasn't until 1991 when Bev became seriously ill that she took a whole new look on life. Her interest turned to the environment and the plight of our native animals and birds.

Since then Bev and her family have rescued and taken in hundreds of needy creatures and given them safe sanctuary. Recently however Bev's world came crashing down around her ears. When neighbours moved in they became offended with the Langley's rescue centre and staged a protest to have the sanctuary and all its animals removed.

Bev of course decided to fight this battle and now after a cost of hundreds of dollars in fees and the sacrifice of many of her animals Bev is slowly climbing to the tip of the mountain. With the public overwhelmingly in her favour, as shown by a recent *written poll* and the support of her local council Bev looks like continuing with her good work.

However the biggest cost to Bev is the loss of faith in the human race. In these days of such environmental contentiousness it is hard to believe that there can be still a few individuals that feel that the laws of nature do not apply to them and that they can continue in their own outdated and selfish ways.

With Bev's history as junior primary teacher she has always been interested in involving children in conservation and the preservation of our fauna. At present her sanctuary has always given time to schools and has a learning program. So successful is the program that she now has a waiting list.

With rougher waters behind her and a solid foundation for future work, she hopes that her plight can be an example to others to fight for what you believe in. She has also become aware of the value of close friend and the great support she got from other volunteer organisations.

Bev has asked me to convey a very special thanks to Bird Care and all its members for all the great support they have given through the whole ordeal.

Well I think I can speak for us all when I say,
"You're welcome mate."

P.S. I have included a letter that I received from Bev about one of her rescues.



Dear Readers,

My most rewarding rescue this month was of a 'Little Eagle'. This species is found throughout Australia. They are characterised by a stout build, broad wings with

black tipped primaries and a short, square cut tail. The Little Eagle has a short erectile crest and is the only Australian Eagle other than the Wedge-tailed Eagle to have feathered legs right down to their feet. The population of the Little Eagle is considerably less dense than that of any other hawks of the same size (approximately. 500mm).

It was rescued in the park below the Blackwood Football Club, with a broken humerus of the right wing. I strapped the wing into its correct position and kept him confined for a week in a hospital cage. Although, not impressed with his confinement, his attitude was good, and he was able to tear up chickens to eat.

After a week he was ready to move about more, so he was transferred to a reasonable sized aviary about 4 metres square, where his wing was left strapped for another 12 days to ensure he did not damage the repairing bones. He was happy to devour pigeons, road kill rabbit and even some roosters with amazing precision.

He was then transferred to the 30-foot shade cloth lined flight cage, [funded by a City of Onkaparinga grant], to build up the strength in his wings ready for release. He was placed there once the bandages were removed to prevent him damaging his tail and flight feathers as he flew into the sides of the cage.

Without this fantastic facility, birds would break feathers and need another 6 weeks to regrow them before release, meaning a much longer confinement. As the aim of the centre is 'rescue, rehabilitation and release' we aim to return injured wildlife to their home territories as quickly as possible. If you take too long returning the bird to their original family they could see the returned

bird as an intruder and may even kill it or the family could move on.

One month later the eagle was flying strongly and the weather perfect, so I packed his bag and took him home. I walked down into the reserve from whence he came and opened the pet pack door. He leapt out and took to the wing immediately soaring up into a magnificent gum tree where he was heralded by a flock of magpies. He sat there for some time, shaking his tail and grooming his feathers contentedly as if to say, "It's about time I came home!"

As I left I saw him soaring in circles down into his valley that he called home.

I heard thumping music from a massive development over the valley and as I drove past the earthworks of a once rural landscape, I feared for these magnificent creatures future. The little piece of habitat that they have left is being rapidly eroded away. Where do they go for food, nest sites and territory when it is gone? Like humans, they need their own space to have as their own.

As to the grief caused by a few of my neighbours, and felt by many of you, 271 positive statements of representations were received by council and 5 negative!! This was in response to an advertisement in the Advertiser for us to be an animal rescue centre, approved by council.

Thank you to those of you who have supported this worthwhile project. I have been told when the public hearing will take place.

Cheers for Bev and the rescuers.
XXX



Beware of [for] the Corella

As I am writing this I am sitting on my front deck. I am watching as a cloud of Corellas descend on my now decimated almond trees. I can also see Galahs, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos Rosellas and Rainbow Lorikeets along with a few smaller breeds of bird- and I am completely happy.

Thinking back to the words of a friend who also watched this avian display the other day.

"Why don't you scare them off or get rid of them. Look at the damage they are doing. All your almonds will go to waste."

"If you want them", I told her "you are welcome to go out there and get them. I will even get you a bucket."

"Oh", She said, "I'm not climbing trees".

"Well neither am I," I said. "So let the birds have them."

"What a waste," she moaned.

"No it's not" I exclaimed. "Look at all the bird I've got in my yard."

After her blank look I realised that it is a unique ability to admire birds in their natural state. Is this a good thing or is it a hindrance. Whatever it may be to us the fact remains that not every one appreciates the joy of birds.

This is why I contacted the friend of the little corella group of old Noarlunga. And yes there are people who care as much as us.

Marie Smith is someone who cares about birds. She especially cares

about the slaughter of our native species.

A year ago Marie was disgusted with the council's solution to the flocks of Little corellas gathering in Old Noarlunga. There had been a few complaints about how noisy and destructive they were and after trying to scare them away with sky hawks and bird scarers they decided the only alternative is to cull them.

Marie has always tried to attract native birds to her garden by planting native trees and providing clean water, so naturally when she found out that they were going to shoot the very birds she was trying to attract she decide to do something about it.

After starting petitions and some light campaigning she met Cheryl Milos and they decided to join forces. They attended the councils Corella meeting where they met with Councillor Sandra Brown who proved a tremendous support. Along with Susan Genes and an Animal Liberationist, they learnt how to effectively publicise their campaign. Soon the Corellas plight was appearing in the local Messenger, Channel 7 and on radio.

So why would a suburban housewife put so much effort into such an exhausting project? "What I really couldn't handle was the mixed messages we were sending to our children." Marie told me. "By killing something that annoys us we were showing very little tolerance."

Marie believes that our children should be encouraged and supported to care for the environment and all the animals in it. Children should also be shown that if you really believe in something, you sometimes have to stick your neck out.

After hearing about children's distress at Noarlunga Primary School at seeing birds culled next to their school, Marie arranged a visit to the school and was overwhelmed by the positive response from the children towards the corellas.

What Marie would like to see organised instead of the culling is long term solutions. For example decoy-feeding, planting of indigenous trees and corridors of food that are natural to the corellas diet.

For the future, Marie is planning a public meeting, a web site and an education program, all designed to stop the killing of birds and instil tolerance and understanding.

If you would like to support Marie she would love to hear from you. Please give her a ring on
0401 627 266.

Not just hot air

As Australia's population grows and our demands for energy increase, we must all take a serious look at alternate sources for our power. At present Australia is 90% dependent on coal for our power generation, making us the worst per capita greenhouse gas emitter in the world. We have alternate sources of generation available to us, but we must weigh up the consequences. During the 1950's hydro electricity was seen to be the alternate power source of the future. Damming rivers, flooding lakes and making huge earthworks in the Snowy Mountains seemed like a good idea at the time. 50 years later we now see the impact of those actions. The Snowy River is not much more than a stagnate creek and the Eastern seaboard's hydrology has been changed forever.

Tidal power has also been looked at as a clean source of energy, but unfortunately very few areas have tidal variations large enough to make these systems viable.

It would seem at present that the 2 main saviours for our environment might be solar and wind energy.

Large-scale solar projects require huge areas of land and very high set up costs. At present it would seem that the short term future for solar power will lay in individual houses having collectors on their roofs returning excess energy into the grid.

Wind power in South Australia has a huge future. We have the correct conditions along most of our southern coastal areas and being that the base of the tower is relatively small, agricultural pursuits can continue underneath. A correctly placed wind generator will in just 6 months pay back the energy used to manufacture it. It can produce up to 2 megawatts of power, which is sufficient to power up to 1000 houses.

Knowing all of these facts would make one assume that wind power is the logical choice for the future. However some serious objections have been raised. Visual pollution, noise and importantly for us the impact on bird life are all issues that have been raised.

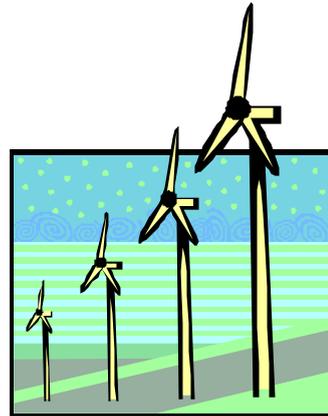
As the towers need to be placed in high wind areas, they are generally visible from a huge distance. Of course it may also be noted that the smoke stacks from Torrens Island and Port Augusta power stations can also be seen from long distances as can the plumes of smoke emitted from them.

It is said that they make a loud noise, especially when it is very windy. I have observed these towers in both Germany and Sweden and

found them to be eerily quiet, although I do agree that in a gale they probably are loud, but then again so is the wind at these times.

Many opponents of the wind towers have raised issues with bird strike and although this is a very important issue to us, we are yet to see a scientific survey that supports this claim. My understanding is that the rotors turn at a slow enough speed to not cause any concerns.

Given the choice of a coal-fired generator or a wind-powered turbine, I think the decision is simple, but I urge you all to inform yourselves with the facts before deciding where your priorities lie.



Fledgling day at Cleland.

Sunday May the 12th was our initial fledgling day. We implemented fledgling day to introduce children to the work that we do with birds and to respect our native bird life.

Although the response wasn't huge, those that did come had a great time and learnt a few things about birds. The staff at Cleland put an extra special effort and had great activities along the nature trail and made the education room nice and warm for us to tell our bird stories and give our talks.



Alysha, Monica and Saskia filling in their trail sheets at Cleland

I received a letter from Jo Purves who attended the day.

To the Bird Care Society,

I would like to thank the organisers of the recent Bird Care information day at Cleland Conservation Park.

I attended the day with my husband and 7 year old daughter Alysha. I have been a keen bird watcher for some time now and I often get comments and *some snickers* from the kids due to my interest in feathered friends. The information day was an interesting way to demonstrate to my children that there is more to birds! In particular Alysha enjoyed the talk on tawny frogmouths and the nature walk, which took us for an interactive adventure around the park in which we had to answer some questions on birds.

We were lucky enough to see the water birds being fed fish. Quite amazing to see what seem like large fish being swallowed whole by relatively small beaks!

Unfortunately, the only point that was negative for us was the cost of the day. I understand that it was already discounted but thought that more people would have attended if the cost were lower.

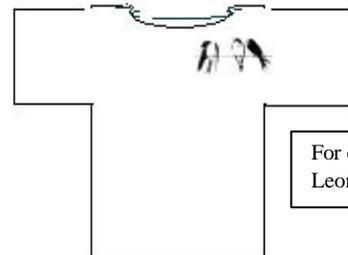
Thank you again to the great organisers, hope to see more people supporting you next time.

Cheers Purves Family.



Leonie telling stories to some of the children.

We have great T-shirts and hats for sale. All with the Bird Care logo.
T shirts \$15.00
Hats \$12.00



For enquires phone
Leonie on 8276 5840

Wedge-tailed Eagle

An elderly female Wedge-tailed Eagle was rescued after being hit by a truck whilst feeding from carrion on the side of the road.

An eye specialist who accepts referrals without charge upon the understanding that birds are either released and if this is impossible euthanased.

After arrival at the surgery it was explained by our member that neither he nor his assistant should try to help

by pulling the legs if she was silly enough to be grabbed by the talons as the talons then act like a grappling-iron and only grip harder. Should this happen the handler (trying not to use bad language) should just manoeuvre the hands out of the said welding gloves (see below) leaving them behind in the talons.

The idea was that with the help of welding gloves the carer should carefully reach into the large crate grabbing the 'ankles' and wings in one fell swoop thus keeping the bird under control whilst the specialist examined the injured eye

I very proudly report that the whole attempt was completely successful and the 'brave and strong' member who was suitably humbled by such success refrained from mentioning to the onlookers that a large wild cockatoo or even an adult Brush-tailed Possum and in fact many other animals are more difficult to handle.

Sadly the examination showed that the bird had a cataract and even if it were removed her eyesight would still be poor. We hypothesised that as she was eating carrion beside a busy road her eyesight may have been too poor to see the truck that hit her and to release her would be irresponsible.

BCCS member

Committee Appointments 2003

PUBLIC OFFICER	Sharon Blair
DUCK ADVISER/REPESANTATIVE	Jill McLatchie
LIASON WITH NPWS	Margaret Fuller/Leonie Phillips
BCCS ASSETTS OFICER	Barrie Hodgson
LIBRARIAN	Lesley Hodgson/Pam Robinson
EDITORIAL TEAM	Karen Gerhardy/Pam Robinson
PRINTING/DISTRIBUTION	Barry Hodgson print and post Sharon Blair email
RAPTOR ADVICE/FOOD:	Sharon Blair/Anita Turton
BANDING OFFICERS	Oliver Fuller /Anita Turton)
SUPPLY OFFICER	Roy Bond
FACT SHEET SUPPLIES	Lesley Hodgson
REPRINTING OF PUBLICATIONS	Lesley Hodgson
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER	Barry Hodgson
HOSPITALITY	Wendy Bagot/Alison Bagot
WELCOMING OFFICERS	Leonie Phillips
CRECHE COORDINATOR	Leonie Phillips
CONSERVATION COUNCIL REPS	Alex Randall
NEW MEMBERS KITS	Lesley Hodgson
LOST AND FOUND BIRDS CO-ORDINATOR	Kay McGrath
EDUCATIONAL TALKS ORGANISOR	Bob Hall/Leonie Phillips
WEB MASTER	Pam Robinson
BOOK SALES	Barrie Hodgson

Banding Report To BCCS Annual General Meeting, March 2003

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of Anita's very detailed 8 page report please contact the BCCS committee.

Bird Care & Conservation Society Inc SA				
Phone Advice List				
Position/Speciality	Name	Phone (h)	Phone (w)/mobile	Post Code
Committee	Sharon	0419 857 031		
	Bob	8296 2913		
	Barrie	8289 6090		
	Karen	8556 2508		
	Leonie	8276 5840		
	Pam	8390 3254		
Email Address	president@birdcare.asn.au			
	bccs@birdcare.asn.au			
Website	www.birdcare.asn.au			
BCCS Mobiles		0418 807 546	0409 984 910	
Banding	Sharon	0419 857 031		
	Anita	8527 4024	0422 114 023	
	Bev	8270 1169		
	Oliver	8379 4416		
Complaints	Sharon	0419 857 031		
	Bob	8296 2913		
Conservation Issues	Sharon	0419 857 031		
	Margaret	8379 4416		
	Leonie	8276 5840		
Euthanasia	Aberfoyle	8270 4445		5159
	Dover Gardens	8296 2913		5048
	Dudley Park	8346 6456		5008
	Lewiston	8524 3506		5501
	Mallala	8527 4024	0422 114 023 5502	
	Modbury North	0419 857 031		5092
	Plympton	8297 3819		5038
	Watervale	8843 0106		5452
Media enquiries	President	0419 857 031		
Wombaroo, baby cereal, vet supplies	Roy	8379 1258		
Fauna Rescue 24 hour		8289 0896		
Lost and Found BCCS	Kay	8270 4445	0407 979 862	
Lost and Found F/R	Fauna Rescue	8281 7702		
Doves	Lesley	8289 6090		
Ducks	Jill	8280 7214		
Kookaburras	Roy	8379 1258		
	Sharon	8264 6696		
	Jennie	8527 7067		
Lorikeets	Margaret	8379 4416		
	Sheila	8296 2913		
Magpies	Margaret	8379 4416		
	Liz	8278 6830		

Bird Care & Conservation Society Inc SA			
Phone Advice List (continued)			
Murray Magpies (PeeWees)	Pam	8390 3254	
Noisy Miners	Lesley	8289 6090	
Oceanic Birds	Margaret	8379 4416	
	Trudy	8265 4416	
Owls and Tawny Frogmouths	Sharon	0419 857 031	
	Anita	8527 4024	0422 114 023
Parrots - large	Bev	8270 1169	
Parrots - small	Sharon	0419 857 031	
	Margaret	8379 4416	
	Sheila	8296 2913	
	Bev	8270 1169	
	Pam	8390 3254	
Penguins, Waterfowl	Sheila	8733 2320	8733 2945
Raptors (and food)	Sharon	0419 857 031	
	Anita	8527 4024	0422 114 023
Swallows small insectivores	Pam	8390 3254	
	Sharon	0419 857 031	
Wattle Birds, Honeyeaters	Pam	8390 3254	
Animal Plant Control Comm.		8303 9500	
Animal Quarantine		8305 9700	
DEH Animal Welfare Director		8204 9176	
NPWS Duty Officer		8204 8707	8204 8714
NPWS Rescue Permits		8204 8700	
NPWS Resource Protect. Unit	24hr paging service	8273 5319	
	Hannah	0417 010 353	
	Tony	0417 010 352	
Animal Welfare League		8268 4188	
Homing Pigeon Assoc - Lost Birds		8388 2001	
Marsupial Society Hotline		8374 1783	
Native Animal Network		8388 6944	
RSPCA		8231 6931	
RSPCA after hours Inspector		8231 2120	
Vets			
Ian	Mitcham	8277 7788	
Trudy	Para Hills	8258 4838	
A/H emergency clinic	Keswick	8371 0333	
Atyeo	Gawler	8522 2055	Atyeo will accept all birds and organise Anita to collect from clinic
Atyeo	Smithfield	8254 1000	
Atyeo	Tanunda	8563 0235	

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