



# Annual Report on Activities

**Wild 2 Free Inc.** ABN: 15 730 637 955

1443 Runnyford Road, Runnyford NSW 2356

July 2020 - June 2021

## July - September 2020

Kymbah (aboriginal for bushfire) and son of Kirri, was the first wild joey to go 'to foot'. We received heavy rainfall often, making the maintenance of the animal shelters difficult. In July, all 5 shelters continued to have food and water (filled by hand) provided. The wildlife cameras installed several months earlier, revealed that a number of native birds and mammals continued to rely on the food and water sources provided.

Bushfire orphan Koa integrated into the released mob quickly, becoming one with them, only returning to the cabin at dusk for a feed, water and some shelter (along with the odd almond treat and chest scratch). He was marked off with Wildlife Rescue South Coast (under whom Rae cares for kangaroos), as officially 'released'. Two Paton 'sheep feeders' were purchased, meaning permanent food sources were now available to any wildlife in need, including gliders who returned to the property after the floods.

Moruya Lions Club donated and set up water tanks at all 5 animal shelters, providing permanent water for wildlife and for the first time since the bushfire, the shelters no longer required maintenance twice daily. Roo breeding season began and wild male 'Arnie from the Back Paddock' visited regularly to breed with the girls.

Eurobodalla Koala Project surveyed trees, determining our trees could host koalas, which are currently extinct in the area.

## October - December 2020

A working bee was held to 'wild up' the habitat boxes which had kindly been donated and a qualified arborist was hired to climb the trees to provide additional homes for gliders, possums and birds of all sizes who had lost suitable habitat due to the bushfire

3 members from the Aboriginal Land Council of Batemans Bay were hired (courtesy of a grant given to Local Land Services) to plant 160 native trees along the gully of the property, leading to the discovery that the paper bark tree (one of the ones planted), acts as a natural tick remover and mosquito repellent! Further investigation of the middens, confirmed that the main midden is many thousands of years old and was active for a very long time, reaching as high as the original house site originally. Over 20 artefacts were discovered in just over an hour!

A much-neglected male cat was surrendered to us. At 3 years old, he had never seen a vet and had severe conjunctivitis, caused by a double entropion. After specialist surgery in Sydney to correct the double entropion and desexing, microchipping etc,

Despite only having a small fire damaged cabin on the property, the first two joeys of a small group of five (Duncan and Chenoa) arrived into care.

On the first anniversary of the bushfire (December 31st), the first of 5 filming sessions for a documentary were filmed. A non-disclosure agreement prohibits further information about it at this stage other than to say it's scheduled for release in mid 2022.

## January - March 2021

New joey arrival Nova kicked off New Year's Day, joined a day later by Huckleberry and Mulberry. Now a mob of 5 joeys, outside during the day and inside the bedroom of the cabin with Rae at night time (not much sleep guaranteed). We purchased a caravan to provide accommodation for volunteers to stay and assist with the joey care, along with continued care for the released kangaroos and wildlife.

The rescue cat Diesel was fostered by one of our committee members and then found his forever home thanks to the assistance of Mini Kitty Commune's extensive reach, with a lovely couple in nearby Surf Beach. We dealt with a mouse plague, which occurred after the departure of Diesel of course,

Big 'Arnie from the Back Paddock', a wild male began socialising regularly with the mob at the cabin each night, primarily to mate with the females. Presumably there were not enough females left in his small mob of wild survivors in the back paddock. Regardless, its great for the gene pool

Cricket, a joey still in care at the time of the bushfires, revealed that her pouch was occupied for the very first time. A beautiful thing given she suffered for several months post fire with 3rd degree burns.

THE FIRE, a short documentary filmed on site in Feb 2020 was released, hoping to get the attention of the Minister for the Environment. It focussed on the fire and the impact of the commercial industry on the kangaroo populations.

At the end of March, the onsite works began for the rebuild, with post holes being dug to house the metal poles the joey house will eventually sit on. We ceased providing feed to wild birds once natural food sources appeared again.

## April - June 2021

We lodged a submission to the NSW Parliament for the Inquiry into the Wellbeing of Kangaroos and Other Macropods in April, alongside 400+ other submissions. Rae Harvey was asked to present evidence at the Inquiry on behalf of both herself and Wild2Free and travelled to Sydney in June to do so.

There were more long days filming the documentary, which we can't wait to tell you about. While we can't say more about this, we know you will love it when it's finally released.

Two rehabilitated orphan possums were relocated to W2F for release via Wildlife Rescue South Coast.

In April, the trucks carrying the joey house modules arrived onsite. The Sydney building team stayed locally in Batemans Bay and began the onsite works and we began purchasing/replacing the many things we need to care for orphaned joeys. BIG thanks to Yolanda, for spending many months sewing the pouches and hanging bags, charging us only for the fabric.

As of June 30, 2020 and 18-months post-fire, we were about two months from completion on the joey house.

Duncan, Chenoa, Mulberry, Huckleberry and Nova were still in care and preparing for soft-release and all the surviving ex-orphan kangaroos were busy caring for their offspring and continuing to return to the cabin at dusk for feed, water and shelter.

We continued providing care, shelter or food and water for ex-orphaned kangaroos, their offspring, wallabies, gliders, possums and birds.

## W2F Committee Report

Following the August 5 2020 AGM, your Committee met on the following dates:

Aug 24 2020, Sep 24 2020, Sep 27 2020, Oct 28 2020, Dec 16 2020, Jan 27 2021, Feb 24 2021, Mar 24 2021, Apr 28 2021, May 26 2021 & May 31 2021.

Attendance at the 11 committee meetings:

President: Rae Harvey 11/11

Vice President: Leigh Blaikie 11/11

Secretary: Margaret Park 10/11

Treasurer: Anita Morgan 11/11

Committee Member: Nat Gruin 2/5

(Nat resigned in Jan due to work commitments)

During their tenure, your appointed committee, in addition to dedicating most of their time to rebuilding the facilities destroyed by the bushfires, with the objective of rebuilding a facility that was much more purpose built and better suited to providing specialist care, has:

- Worked at rebuilding the natural environment on the land where Wild2Free is located
- Reluctantly hired a law firm to provide general advice and initiate or defend any legal proceedings against the charity
- Implemented a new operating budget
- Created new gmail email addresses so that future committee members could access past communication
- Improved governance and procedures (a work in progress)
- Developed and designed the joey house
- Purchased a caravan to enable live-in volunteers again
- Finalised agreements with raffle and commercial organisations to provide further funds

## W2F Committee Report cont.

- Arranged a valuation and negotiated and signed a 10 year lease to continue providing animal care at the Runnyford property commencing July 1st, 2021
- Won a local court case

We're pleased to report that an Inquiry into the activities and finances of Wild2Free for July 2017 - June 2020, conducted by the Australian Taxation Office in March-June 2021, was finalised on 22 June 2021. The ATO made no recommendations and found no risks found that required further action. We were thanked for being professional and cooperative throughout the review.

We say goodbye (for now), to our current Secretary Margaret Park, who will be resigning at the AGM due to health issues and wish her the best of luck and thank her for her tireless work. Additionally, the lovely Nat Gruin is unable to re-nominate due to work commitments.

Our onsite volunteers from July 2020 - June 2021 were: Rae Harvey, Nicole & Graham Lesslie, Shannon Muscat, Kathy Ritchie, Steve from Moruya Rotary Club, Alana Lenkovic, David Crass, Jacqui from Long Beach and we thank them all for their efforts.

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Nominations for the new committee closed on 9 Dec 2021. There was only one nomination for each position, therefore the new committee, who become active after the AGM on 16 Dec 2021 will be:  
President: Rae Harvey [w2fpresident@gmail.com](mailto:w2fpresident@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Leigh Blaikie [w2fvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:w2fvicepresident@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Lynne Gilliam [w2fsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:w2fsecretary@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Anita Morgan [w2ftreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:w2ftreasurer@gmail.com)  
Committee Member: Peter Sharp [w2fmember@gmail.com](mailto:w2fmember@gmail.com)

Thank you also to Peter Sharp from Tame & Wild Studios for providing all photos in this report, taken at Wild2Free and featuring: Kanku, Chenoa, Cricket's first son, Nova, Renes and Lily.

