



Annual Report on Activities

Wild 2 Free Inc. ABN: 15 730 637 955
1443 Runnyford Road, Runnyford NSW 2356
July 2021 - June 2022

July - September 2021

The 5 joeys (Chenoa, Duncan, Nova, Mulberry and Huckleberry), raised at the cabin, were soft released in mid-July 2021. There was no rest as the first joey for the next season, Dulu, arrived 2 weeks later.

In August Dulu was joined by Hakea and Casey and all 3 lived in Rae's house while we waited for the Joey House to be completed.

Casey arrived with a torn ear and dislocated tail, which took 6 weeks to heal while Hakea had a horrible bacterial infection which healed in 2 weeks.

Filming continued for 'The Bond', a documentary produced by Robert Downey Jr's Team Downey for the Discovery channel. The Bond is about the special relationship between Kanku and Rae and also covers the bushfire and rebuilding. The documentary also features Uncle Max, a Yuin senior elder, who sadly passed away shortly after filming took place.

By September we finished setting up the Joey House and had replaced most of the items lost in the fire. Pouches, hanging bags, bottles and teats, medical supplies etc.

Piper and Elvie arrived, making a total of 5 new joeys in care by the end of September.

Kanku and Lily located us living at the other end of the property and began hanging out there. We continued to provide feed and shelter to all released kangaroos via shelters in paddocks and at the cabin.

October - December 2021

In just the first week of October, 4 more joeys arrived to join Dulu, Hakea, Casey, Piper and Elvie.

Renes, Jack and Lavender were settled into the joey house and a 391gram pinkie arrived. Our newly purchased ICU was required to warm his cold body up from 19 degrees to 36 degrees so he could take fluids before being passed onto a pinky specialist. The joey was named 'Obi'.

We hosted a special Yuin Ceremony for Kangaroos on October 24, World Kangaroo Day and invited some of our local supporters and friends to experience a beautiful cultural ceremony and witness the handing over of the 'Yuin Declaration for Kangaroos to Senator Mark Pearson.

A car accident orphan named Nirvana came into care but was suffering unknown health issues and was sadly euthanised several weeks later. A post-mortem was unable to establish cause of death and tissue samples were sent to Sydney Uni in hope of establishing a cause.

Information about a new disease called 'Puffy Face Syndrome', was published by Wildlife Health in March 2020 and by mid 2021, kangaroos on the NSW South Coast were presenting with symptoms of this disease, thought to be transmitted by mosquitos. Unfortunately, it's often too late to save the kangaroos, by the time they're reported to a wildlife group by the public. Our very own Casey also presented with it but due to swift treatment, survived. Even our local vet didn't think she would survive! Well done Casey!

Casey became the 'poster child' for the campaign to stop commercial kangaroo slaughter, resulting in a billboard in MP Sussan Ley's electorate. Her image continues to be used in campaigns against Nike today.

January - March 2022

Our Joey House's additional rooms proved to be continuously useful for young joeys or sick animals requiring quarantine and also helpful when you have a few 'off-season' joeys arrive when still rehabilitating the last lot!

While the main joey room continued to house Dulu, Hakea, Casey, Piper, Elvie, Renes, Jack and Lavender, the much younger new arrival London was initially housed separately. She was joined by Jedi and Obi, the pinky rescued back in October, returning to his home lands for continued rehabilitation. We can confirm that an ideal maximum number of joeys to rehab at any time is 8 but we managed.

Joeys have incredibly sensitive tummies, and over a two week period we had a massive FOUR joeys with runny poo! Dulu had a UTI, Casey and Elvie had bacterial infections and Piper had runny poo from teething. Yes joeys suffer pain and distress from teething sometimes too!

Experiences like that one made us even more grateful for the Joey House, which has proven itself to be the perfect size and layout for optimum animal care. We're especially thankful for the full sized laundry because the washing machine runs all day every day most days.

Raising joeys combined with running a release site for kangaroos means there's little spare time for anything else. The amount of work that goes into keeping things clean can never be underestimated. It takes around 3 hours per day just to pick up the poo from the grass around the house and cabin let alone all the laundry, cleaning of feed areas, bottles and snack collection etc etc.

We were so happy when Annie arrived in March! Annie is another trained wildlife carer and is now living in the cabin full time. She does the morning feeds and Rae does the night feeds ensuring both humans get more sleep!

April - June 2022

Another challenge with running a release site is that you need to continue providing care to kangaroos who are technically released. Kangaroos are extremely emotional animals who become quite attached to their human carers, so after no longer being on a bottle, many continue to return at dusk every day looking for a feed, water and shelter.

They also hang around to let you know they're feeling unwell. In early April, 5 year old Lily went into oestrous. Despite having 6-month old 1.1kg daughter Sage in her pouch. Lily was relentlessly pursued due to both Kanku and Brutus wishing to mate with her. Sadly the stress was too much for Lily, causing her to drop her joey Sage.

Lily is one of our smartest kangaroos and this situation was no exception. She dropped Sage on Rae's deck as though she KNEW that we could care for her. The irony is that Lily usually helps raise the orphans, taking them into the bush and returning them to the house in the afternoons. Now it was pay back time.

A second joey, Yindi, was transferred from Wildlife Rescue South Coast as a buddy for Sage however passed away shortly after arrival from suspected organ development issues.

Another released kangaroo returned home to let us know he was unwell in May. The much-loved Huckleberry, buddy of Mulberry, developed acute renal failure and passed away in our ICU room. Renal failure is a reasonably common condition in kangaroos and is usually fatal.

Huckleberry wasn't with us for a long time but it definitely was a good time. One of the happiest and most fun-loving kangaroos we've ever known.

W2F Committee Report

Following the 16 December 2021 AGM, your committee has met ten times: 2 February, 2 March, 5 & 6 April, 10 & 18 May, 22 June, 17 August, 14 September and 19 October. Three of these were Special Committee Meetings: two focusing on legal issues arising from defamation action in the NSW Supreme Court and a third focusing exclusively on fundraising.

All office holders have attended each of these meetings, with the exception of the Special Committee meeting held on 6 April, from which Rae Harvey abstained due to a potential conflict of interest. Peter Sharp, committee member, also provided a valuable contribution to four of the seven general committee meetings.

During their tenure, your appointed committee has:

- Approved the purchase and installation of a solar battery to ensure a continuous source of renewable energy power for the charity
- Considered and approved other high expenditure items, such as a high pressure cleaner and higher cost veterinary expenses
- Implemented recommendations from the 2020-2021 audit report, including ratification of charity expenses at each meeting
- Secured a \$15K grant from Services NSW which was initially agreed in 2021 but had not been paid and was at risk of being lost
- Explored more efficient ways of managing supporter administration through our website and customer management software (a work in progress)

W2F Committee Report cont.

- Discussed a range of fundraising options, including securing donation of a range of goods from Bunnings Bateman's Bay
- Drafted a revised volunteer agreement which will shortly be trialled with new volunteers
- Responded to various legal requirements relating to defamation action in the NSW Supreme Court

Our onsite volunteers from July 2021 - June 2022 were:

Rae Harvey (Jul-Jun), Annie Carston (Mar-Jun), Josh O'Halloran (Jul-Oct), Laury Dalacour (Jul-Oct), Florencia Cervi (Oct-Jan), Soledad Saparrat (Nov-Dec), Devon-Blair Murphy (Jan-Feb), Chiara Lampasona (Jan-Apr), Pauvo Hlacacek (Jan-Apr), Cyrus Ainsworth (Apr-Jun), Tamar Rubin (Apr-Jun), Nicole & Graham Lesslie (local sporadic). We thank each and every one of them all for their incredible efforts.

Photos in this report, taken at Wild2Free and featuring: Yanda, Mulberry, Huckleberry & Duncan, Obi, Jack & Lavender, Sage, Kanku and Uncle Max with Dulu.



KANGAROO

KANGAROO
A Love-Story