

# Welcome to NATURE'S NETWORK NEWS

Connecting wildlife volunteers,  
sharing knowledge, and building a  
supportive community.

## MEET THE TEAM

### Our Admin Extrodinaire!



### Introducing Natasha Glencairn-Campbell

From Rock Climbing to Rescuing: Meet WNT's Administrative Powerhouse

Wildlife care takes dedication, skill, and a whole lot of heart—and few embody this better than Natasha Glencairn-Campbell, WNT's Administrative Officer. With a career as diverse as the animals she cares for, Natasha brings a unique blend of hands-on experience, strategic thinking, and deep compassion to our team.

For the past six years, Natasha has dedicated herself to rescuing and rehabilitating sick and orphaned wildlife in Tasmania, strengthening her commitment to improving wildlife welfare. When she's not nurturing joeys back to health, she's out rescuing venomous snakes, fueled by a profound appreciation for their essential role in our ecosystems.

Her journey to WNT has been anything but ordinary. Before immersing herself in wildlife care, Natasha spent years rehabilitating abused farm animals and training traumatised horses using natural horsemanship techniques. She also holds a Bachelor of Law and has 15 years of administrative experience, previously managing operations for a psychotherapy organisation in the UK. And if that's not enough, she spent another 15 years teaching rock climbing, managing climbing walls, and running an industrial abseiling business.

With a passion for wildlife, a talent for problem-solving, and an adventurous spirit, Natasha plays a crucial role in supporting WNT's mission. Whether it's ensuring smooth operations behind the scenes or stepping in to save a snake, she's always ready to go the extra mile for Tasmania's wildlife.

☐ Stay tuned for more team introductions in future editions!

## **RESOURCE CORNER**



### *Top resources for the wildlife community*

#### **Supporting Wildlife Amidst Tasmania's Bushfires**

The recent Tasmanian bushfires have burned through nearly 95,000 hectares of wilderness, devastating critical habitats and leaving many native animals injured, displaced, or without food. As the fires continue, many in the wildlife volunteer community feel frustrated and powerless, believing that not enough is being done to support Tasmania's native wildlife. This crisis has exposed serious shortcomings in Tasmania's wildlife emergency response system.

At Wildlife Network Tasmania (WNT), we hear your concerns. However, WNT does not have the authority to implement wildlife recovery efforts following bushfires—that responsibility sits with NRE Tasmania. In response, WNT Chair Georgie Ibbott has formally written to NRE, requesting urgent clarification on their wildlife recovery strategies. We are asking what actions are being taken to assist surviving wildlife, whether food drops are being organised, and how WNT and the volunteer community can contribute. You can read the full letter below.

This situation has highlighted the urgent need for a well-structured, coordinated wildlife emergency response plan. We are deeply disappointed that such a plan does not already exist. Moving forward, WNT is committed to advocating for stronger wildlife disaster response measures, ensuring that native animals are not left behind in future crises. Additionally, we plan to introduce training courses later this year to better equip volunteers with the skills needed for wildlife emergency response.

If you or someone you know has lost wildlife rehabilitation facilities due to the fires, please reach out to us—we want to help in any way we can.

If you come across injured wildlife, call the Bonorong Rescue Line at 0447 ANIMAL (0447 264 625) for immediate assistance.

To support wildlife carers responding to fire-affected animals, we have included Dr Anne Fowler's guide on treating burnt wildlife, providing essential advice on assessing and managing burns.

We stand with Tasmania's wildlife carers and volunteers, and we will continue to push for real change to ensure better outcomes for wildlife in future disasters.

☐ Let us know if you have a go-to guide or resource you'd like to share in future issues!

Anne Fowler's Guide to  
Treating Burnt Wildlife

Georgie Ibbott's Email to  
NRE RE: Bushfires & Wildlife

## **TRAINING & EVENTS**



### *Upcoming training, workshops & events.*

Thank you to everyone who attended **our first training workshop for 2025.**

The Snake Handling & Rehabilitation course was incredible!  
Here's a few pictures from the day.

(insert pics)

And because it was so popular and we have had an influx of requests, we are working hard to confirm a second training course in North of the state!! We are still finalising the details, but keep your eyes peeled on your inbox. All of you on the WNT mailing list will have first dibs on the course. With limited positions available, it's a first come first serve opportunity. So keep a look out!

### **Looking ahead:**

WNT is thrilled to announce that we're hard at work developing the 2025 training calendar! We're planning a range of workshops and events tailored to support wildlife carers and rescuers across Tasmania. Stay tuned for updates on our website, where we'll share confirmed training opportunities, dates, and locations. We're excited to continue building on the success of 2024 and supporting your incredible efforts in the year ahead!

### **Confirmed courses for 2025:**

- **8th of March** - Wildlife Unplugged: Bandicoot Banter with Robyn Gates (Fully Booked)
- **15th of March** - Face-to-face training for wildlife carers at Bonorong
- **26th of April** - Crop & Tube Feeding at Bonorong.
- **3rd of May** - Face-to-face training for wildlife carers at Riverside
- **17th of May** - Intro to Birds in Campbell Town.
- **18th of May** - Crop & Tube Feeding in Campbell Town.
- **7th of June** - Face-to-face training for wildlife carers at Smithton
- **28th of June** - Intro to Wombats at Campbell Town (Filling up fast!)

### **In the pipeline for 2025:**

- Statewide hydration training (multiple locations & dates)
  - Baby birds & ducklings
  - Indepth course on Macropods.
  - Wildlife Unplugged: Species Specific Chats (multiple dates & locations)
- And many more!

TRAINING CALENDAR →

### **Tassie based events!**

I've scoured the web and found some other Tassie based events you might like.  
Check them out. ☐ ☐

**Rockpool Food & Music Festival**

- ☐ **Sunday, March 9, 2025**
- ☐ **2:00 PM – 9:00 PM AEDT**
- ☐ **Bicheno Lions Park, 78 Burgess Street, Bicheno, TAS 7215**
- ☐ **Food, Music & Ocean Views**

Kick back with delicious local food, refreshing drinks, and live music on the shores of stunning Waubs Bay, Bicheno. Now in its 21st year, this annual tradition is the perfect way to ease into autumn while supporting the Bicheno Lions Club's community initiatives. A great family-friendly event!

- ☐ More details & tickets: [Rockpool Food & Music Festival](#)

**ECHO Festival 2025**

- ☐ **Friday, March 14 – Sunday, March 16, 2025**
- ☐ **Swansea, East Coast, lutruwita / Tasmania**

Join the East Coast Harvest Odyssey (ECHO) for a boutique Festival of the Senses celebrating the rich lifestyle and traditions of Tasmania's East Coast. This immersive experience connects food, wine, art, storytelling, and Tasmanian Aboriginal culture in a stunning rural setting. Enjoy sensory experiences that touch on taste, smell, sight, sound, and touch while connecting with producers, artists, musicians, and thought leaders.

- ☐ Early Bird Tickets: On sale Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 12 noon.
- ☐ Full Price Tickets: On sale Tuesday, December 10, 2024.
- ☐ Learn more and secure your tickets [here](#).

**Stanley & Tarkine Forage Festival**

- ☐ **15 - 18 May 2025**
- ☐ **Stanley & The Tarkine, Tasmania**
- ☐ **A Celebration of Tasmania's Most Delicious Region**

Experience the beauty and abundance of Tasmania's North West at this ultimate culinary adventure! Indulge in the Stanley Street Feast, multi-course regional dinners, and foraging adventures. You can even take a chairlift to The Nut for a special surprise dining experience!

- ☐ More details: [Forage Festival](#)

**Australian Musical Theatre Festival**

- ☐ **21 - 25 May 2025**
- ☐ **Launceston, Tasmania**
- ☐ **A Five-Day Celebration of Musical Theatre**

Immerse yourself in a world of music, theatre, and performance. Whether it's a reimagined classic, meeting Australia's biggest stars, or exploring a city full of stories, this festival is perfect for all lovers of musical theatre.

- ☐ More details: [AMTF](#)

**Light Up the West**

- ☐ **Strahan Solstice: 20 - 23 June**
- ☐ **Colours of Queenstown: 27 - 29 June**
- ☐ **West Coast, Tasmania**
- ☐ **A Winter Festival of Light & Community**

Brighten up your winter with free light shows in Strahan and Queenstown! Enjoy long-table feasts, live music, winter markets, and the exhilarating solstice plunge.

- ☐ More details: [West Coast Tasmania](#)

**Solstice in the Square**

- ☐ **Friday, 20 June 2025**
- ☐ **Regent Square, George Town, Tasmania**
- ☐ **Winter's Warmer Up North**

Embrace the balance of darkness and light with a fireside evening of music, food, mulled wine, and community. Gather under the stars and celebrate the longest night of the year in Northern Tasmania.

- ☐ More details: [George Town Events](#)

### Festival of Voices

- ❑ 27 June - 6 July 2025
- ❑ Statewide, Tasmania
- ❑ Australia's Premier Celebration of Singing

Since 2005, this heartwarming winter festival has brought 30,000 people together in song. From intimate choral performances to grand singalongs, this festival is a celebration of music, connection, and community.

❑ More details: Festival of Voices

### Gather & Glow: Winter Bonfire & Night Market

- ❑ 27 - 29 June 2025
- ❑ Old Bass Highway, Wynyard, Tasmania
- ❑ A Cozy Winter Wonderland

Enjoy a magical evening filled with crackling bonfires, twinkling lights, live entertainment, and a bustling night market featuring local crafts and delicious food. Bring your family and friends for a night of warmth, flavour, and winter magic.

❑ More details: Gather & Glow

### agriCULTURED: Tasmania's Festival of Gastronomy

- ❑ 31 July - 3 August 2025
- ❑ Northern Tasmania
- ❑ Where Innovation Meets Tradition

Dive into Tasmania's rich agricultural heritage and cutting-edge food innovation. This festival is for food lovers, industry professionals, and creatives, celebrating sustainability, craftsmanship, and the future of food.

❑ More details: agriCULTURED

## TIPS & TRICKS



Image courtesy: Janelle Olivia

### *Insights from the field.*

*This section is dedicated to sharing practical tips and techniques from experienced wildlife volunteers to help everyone—new and seasoned alike. Sometimes, the simplest advice can make the biggest difference in the field!*

#### **This edition's tip:**

Any registered wildlife rehabilitator can sign up with **Newcraft** for great prices on their stocked items. They have a huge range of essential wildlife items. Email them at: [sales@newcraft.com.au](mailto:sales@newcraft.com.au) with your permit from NRE. They will establish a wholesale account with you. Visit [www.newcraft.com.au](http://www.newcraft.com.au) to browse their online store.

### General tips:

- When making up formula, make up a large batch and freeze in ice cube trays. Add ice cubes to small jars to defrost. Formula lasts for 2 weeks in the freezer.
- For stressy joeys, use a teat without a hole as a dummy. It needs to be pinned from the outside of the pouch to ensure there is no risk to injury. This can be especially helpful for joeys that suck their pouch or testes.
- Pegging small branches to the top of a joeys hanging bag and letting them hang down over the opening will provide them with some comfort and shelter whilst also allow them to nibble the leaves as they get curious.
- When a joey first comes into care, checking their mobility is crucial. Even pouch bound joeys need a thorough assessment, but as they are not naturally steady on their feet yet, it can be difficult to assess their mobility. Here are a few tips on checking mobility.
  - For possums, check that their tail has proper grip reflex by touching the tail tip. If you run your finger along the bottom side of the tail, once you reach the end, they should naturally want to curl it around your finger.
  - Pinch their toes to see if they recoil their foot.
  - Apply some pressure with your hand to the base of their foot and check that they push back slightly.
  - If you are doing a walk/hop test, make sure the surface you use is something that they can grip onto.
  - Placing a soft toy in front of a possum can assist to see if they can climb.

In the next newsletter edition we will be talking about all things cat attacks.

If you've had amazing cat attack survival stories, I want to hear from you! Please email in your stories and photos. If you've had an animal in care due to cat attack, that hasn't made it and you're happy to share the things you learnt, I would love to share that with the amazing wildlife community. It's so important to remember that each loss we have in our care, can teach us something. But not just that. You now have the ability to share what you've learned throughout the entire state!

Email to your stories at [community@wildlifenetworktasmania.org.au](mailto:community@wildlifenetworktasmania.org.au)

☐ Have a tip, trick, or technique you'd like to share with the wildlife community? We'd love to hear from you—your insights could be invaluable to others.

SHARE YOUR TIPS & TRICKS →

## ACTS OF KINDNESS

### Celebrating our wildlife heroes

We couldn't do it without you!

This section celebrates the incredible individuals who go above and beyond for wildlife. Whether you're a carer, rescuer, or someone lending a helping hand, every act of kindness makes a difference.

#### A community coming together.

I wanted to share the overwhelming response that we received in regards to the e-gift initiative. Several rehabilitators forfeited their money to put it back into the pool and distribute it others. Because of this, our amazing wildlife carer community each received a \$200 cash card!

Here are a few emails we received in response to their cards.

- *"Very generous and very much appreciated. Thankyou!"*
- *"Hey guys, I am writing to thank you so much for the e card wow, what an awesome bonus for this time of year. Again thank you so much ☐ I hope you all have an awesome christmas"*
- *"Hi WNT, Just wanted to say a big thanks for organising this token of appreciation for our wildlife carers. On a personal note, it couldn't have come at a more needed time! Thank you also for your hard work this year... I know it hasn't been easy! I hope you all have a safe and peaceful Christmas and that the new year brings us all lots of positive and triumphant wildlife achievements! Big love to all"*

- *"Dear WNT. Thank you so much for the gift card it was very thoughtful and will go a long way to assist those that care for our wildlife. I wanted to let you know how much the card means to some struggling rehabilitators and that I contemplated refusing the card to allow others to benefit more until I needed to find a place for a viable rescued joey. I gave my card to a rehabilitator in Prospect Vale. She is a mature age single-mother with special-needs children that live with her, is living on government benefits and has a terminal illness. Despite this she was caring for about 15 joeys recently. It was very much appreciated!"*
- *"My gift card arrived this morning, thank you so much, i thought maybe \$50 so you can imagine my surprise when i opened it, i think caring for native animals is the best thing i have done, they give me so much love and releasing them makes me so happy, knowing they have a great & safe life where i release them, wishing you & your family a very merry christmas and happy new year"*

These are just a select handful of the lovely responses we receive. Thank you everyone for doing such a wonderful job caring our beautiful wildlife.

We look forward to supporting you all through this incredibly difficult, yet rewarding journey.

☐ **Know a local hero or have an inspiring story?**

If there's someone you'd like to nominate to be featured in the next newsletter, or have a beautiful story you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Send us the story and let's celebrate some amazing wildlife moments together!

SEND IN YOUR STORY →

## SECTOR UPDATES



### *Sector Strategy & Action Plan Review Underway*

#### **Strengthening the Future of Wildlife Rehabilitation**

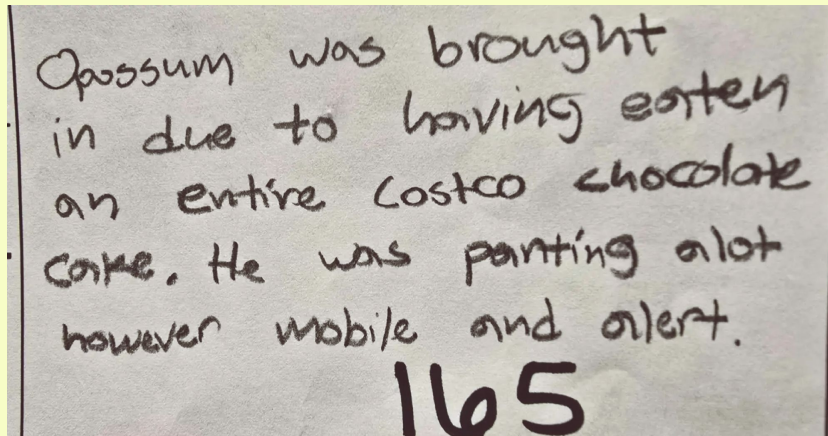
On 23 January 2025, the WNT Board met to review the Tasmanian Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy & Action Plan as we prepare for the next phase of our work. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the review process—your feedback through interviews and surveys has been invaluable. Your insights and experiences are critical in shaping a stronger, more effective strategy that will drive better outcomes for Tasmania's native wildlife and the dedicated carers who support them.

With all the feedback and data now collected, we will begin drafting the new Sector Strategy & Action Plan for 2025–2030. Our goal is to address key challenges, improve support for wildlife carers, and advocate for long-term sustainability in the sector. We look forward to sharing updates and engaging further with the wildlife community as we develop this important roadmap for the future.

As these plans take shape, your input is invaluable! If you have ideas or feedback, we'd love to hear from you—together, we can strengthen the future of Tasmania's wildlife care network.

☐ Stay tuned for updates on upcoming training sessions and new initiatives!

## NEWS FROM THE BIG ISLAND AND BEYOND



### ☐ **Cake-Craving Opossum's Sweet Tooth Leads to an Unexpected Rescue!** ☐

An opossum in Nebraska found herself in a sticky (and delicious) situation after devouring an entire chocolate cake meant for a party. Animal control picked up the cranky, cake-stuffed culprit and brought her to Nebraska Wildlife Rehab, where vets had a good laugh—until they discovered something more serious.

While the sugar binge didn't seem to harm her, blood tests revealed lead toxicity, which could have been fatal if left untreated. Ironically, her cake heist may have saved her life! She's now receiving treatment and is expected to be released in March—hopefully with a newfound appreciation for a healthier diet.

For the full (and hilarious) story, check out the article below.

[READ THE ARTICLE HERE →](#)

### ☐ **A \$2 Solution to Support Wildlife Rescuers in Victoria!** ☐ ☐

Every year, thousands of native animals in Victoria are injured or killed on the roads, and wildlife rescue falls almost entirely on the shoulders of unpaid volunteers. These dedicated carers self-fund the lifesaving food, medicine, and shelter needed to rehabilitate injured animals—without consistent financial support.

Now, a bold new proposal could change that. A \$2 levy on vehicle registrations has been proposed to create a sustainable funding stream for wildlife rescuers, ensuring they have the resources needed to respond to road trauma cases without relying on sporadic or limited government grants.

The campaign needs 10,000 signatures to push this initiative into Parliament. Victorian residents can sign the petition here, so share it to your Victorian counterparts. ☐ [Sign Now](#).

This is a simple, effective model—one that could spark ideas for similar initiatives elsewhere. Imagine what a small, community-backed funding solution could do for wildlife rescuers & rehabilitators here in Tasmania. Food for thought... ☐ ☐

Would you support a similar approach in our state? Let's keep the conversation going! ☐

[READ THE PARLIMENTARY ENTRY HERE →](#)

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## TRIVIA TIME

*Download some nerdy facts into your brain!*

I love learning—especially when it's about nature and wildlife! This section is here to share some light-hearted, nerd-tastic facts that are sure to spark your

curiosity.  
In each edition, I'll pose some fun and fascinating trivia questions to test your brainpower ☐. The answers will be revealed in the following edition, so stay tuned and let's nerd out together!

**Answers to last editions questions:**

**What is the pouch called where marsupials like Tasmanian Devils carry their young?**

*Answer: Marsupium also more commonly known as a pouch.*

**What is the closest living relative to the common wombat (not including other wombat species)?**

*Answer: The Koala*

**Huon Pine, a unique Tasmanian tree, has an exceptionally high oil content that makes its timber resistant to insects, waterproof, and gives it a distinctive sappy scent. This oil also allows the wood to be bent and shaped without splitting.**

**What is the name of this special oil?**

- A) Lagarostrobos
- B) Franklini
- C) Methyl Eugenol - Correct Answer.
- D) Tasmanol

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**New questions:**

**What unique feature do both wombats and koalas share due to their evolutionary relationship?**

- A) Forward-facing pouches
- B) Backward-facing pouches
- C) Prehensile tails
- D) Nocturnal vision enhancements

**New questions:**

**What percentage of a wombat's diet consists of grasses?**

- A) 25%
- B) 50%
- C) 90%
- D) 100%

**New questions:**

**At what age do Tasmanian Devils typically begin breeding?**

- A) 1 year
- B) 2 years
- C) 3 years
- D) 4 years

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## FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS

Your feedback is essential to making this newsletter as valuable as possible. Have ideas for topics, tips to share, or news you'd like to see? Send your thoughts to [community@wildlifenetworktasmania.org.au](mailto:community@wildlifenetworktasmania.org.au) — we'd love to hear from you!

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<https://wildlife-network-tasmania.trainercentralsite.com.au/#/home>

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UP

Made with postcards