

Brisbane Bat Chatter

Issue No. 7: June 09 - August 2009

Annual General Meeting and award evening 16th August at 3pm.



Annual General Meetings are usually boring affairs—right? No one ever wants to go to one—True? Well lets try something different. We are going to have a big social night at Heath Park in Norman Park, have a BBQ and watch the bats fly out, — we'll get the business part of our meeting done early then we can relax and enjoy the evening. We would like to celebrate another year of working together with you and award our hard working volunteers with fuel vouchers (with thanks) from Brisbane City Councils Carer Assistance Grants. We would like to present special awards to those rescuer/carers for their personal effort to assist BCB with rescues and attending events throughout 2008. We would love everyone to come and enjoy a nice evening sharing our passion and indulgence—bats.

Educate and Prevent

As you all know, rescue and conservation are two vitally important roles we play in Bat Care Brisbane. At a national conference on the deaths of wildlife due to linear infrastructure—namely roads and koalas, BCB submitted two posters showing the cruelty of barbed-wire and of electrocution—killing infrastructure not discussed. So impressed were the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand with our posters they have requested permission to put them up on their web site to help raise awareness—how good is that? We desperately need to make the community aware that we cannot sustain the deaths of bats on the ever increasing barbed-wire in commercial precincts. Bats die publicly yet there is little action to reverse the trends of premises using barbed-wire then planting with native flowering and fruiting plants. It is a recipe for death. All of our rescuers are well aware of the fatal and crippling dangers barbed-wire fencing holds for our furry friends. In light of this we are doing a 'disk drive'. At this stage we're asking everyone to recycle and save up all their useless discs!! The picture provided will give you an idea of how we intend to use the discs to try to divert the bats away from this danger. Every little bits helps so ask your family and friends to save them for us.

By hanging the disks from barbed-wire we will be alerting people to the problem. We need a campaign of awareness that barbed wire planted with fruiting and flowering plants will forever be a cruel killer of flying-foxes. Start saving now and bring them along to any meeting or event.

A great big thank you to Keely Saunders for donating her services to create the posters. If you are creative we have the software to make some more Placestory links about preventable causes of death to bats. We need a power point presentation to take to Regional Councils about barbed-wire—can you help?

We can make a difference to the lives of bats as volunteers—will you?



Dates to Remember

JUNE

Sun 14th - 8am , Fodder Forest working bee

Fri 19th - Flying-fox camp monitoring continues

JULY

Sun 12th - 8 am Fodder Forest working bee

Sat 11th & Sun 12th - 10—4pm Indigi Day Out

Sun 12th - 9.30—2pm Kids Day Out , Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens

Fri 17th - Flying-fox camp monitoring

AUGUST

Sun 2nd - National Tree Day

Sun 9th - Fodder Forest working bee

Sun 16th - Annual General Meeting (Members only)

Fri 21st - Flying-fox camp monitoring

- TRAINING-

Put these dates in your diary

August

Sun 30th - Rescue Training Workshop (Members only)

September

Sun 20—Orphan Training

Workshop (members only)

For more details on these and other events visit our website www.bats.org.au

Attention: We Need You!

Grants are a very important function of any volunteer group, providing much needed assistance for BCB activities ie. equipment for rehabilitation, fuel for travelling, brochures, electronic equipment. As the grants officer I have been coordinating all grants, but I need a support group to help out with the work load. I'm looking for people with experience in the bat caring activities that have some extra time to provide advice and support.

Work involved may include, providing ideas for what BCB need, obtaining prices for various items, providing technical support to the Grants Officer about the processes behind various activities, providing ideas on how grants items are to be processed within BCB. Communication between the Grants Officer and support members will be mainly via email with some phone correspondence. If you are interested in becoming a grants support officer please email grants@bats.org.au

- Liz Turner



Bat Care Brisbane - Member Profile Denise Wade

I was born and raised in Brisbane and I grew up with a love of nature and a compelling interest in all animals. I had always hoped that I could become involved in wildlife rehabilitation after our children had reached an age of independence. Together with Stuart, my understanding and indulgent husband of 28 years, we have raised two wonderfully kind and environmentally aware boys both of whom just love baby season!

It all started for me in October 2006 when I attended an event at Daisy Hill and met some orphans as well as the BCB education bats. I took one look in those big brown eyes and I was a goner. I completed my vaccinations in January, 2007 which unfortunately, turned out to be one of those horror years for flying-foxes and several of us were thrown in at the rescue deep end so to speak. We had to learn on the job and I witnessed things in that first year that frequently rendered me the equivalent of a sobbing basket case. I had never realized that such a pivotal species was so misunderstood, undervalued and persecuted.

Stuart was subsequently vaccinated and we have been raising furry babies and doing rescues ever since. As much as I enjoy the baby raising side of life, I derive the greatest pleasure from the rehabilitation of flying-foxes. They are wonderful patients and their comprehension and intelligence never cease to astound me. Seldom complaining but not always compliant, they are amazingly stoic and mostly tolerant of their temporary stint in captivity. Rehabbing is an intensely rewarding and fascinating part of bat rescue and I am constantly learning new skills and witnessing the incredible wound healing powers of bats.

As there are so few members in the Logan and surrounding areas, we are sometimes required to travel far and wide to attend rescues. Never my favourite part of the business, we have nonetheless, had some interesting rescues. There was the very lucky black boy who bounced off the windscreen of a car travelling at 100 kph and landed in the middle of a busy road, sustaining nothing more serious than a severe concussion. Time spent chasing flying-foxes around trees and warehouses at two in the morning. The lucrative rescue of a black plastic bag flapping convincingly in a jacaranda tree and helping one poor boy caught by his ankle in string, banging hysterically against a colorbond fence in the middle of the night. Not forgetting the 8 gram microbat discovered hanging behind a china cabinet with the homeowner cowering in fear under his dining room table! All memorable, all different.

Fortunate people find their passion in life and I feel privileged and happy to spend my time in the company of bats. The heartbreakers remain in my memory – the compound fractures, the poor creatures crucified on barbed wire fences and the bats that were just too damaged to be saved. All of these individuals have left their mark on my soul. I fervently hope that the situation improves for bats in the foreseeable future and governments work harder and offer greater protection for these forgotten heroes of our forests.

- Denise Wade.

'Going Batty'

Author [Rebecca Johnson](#)

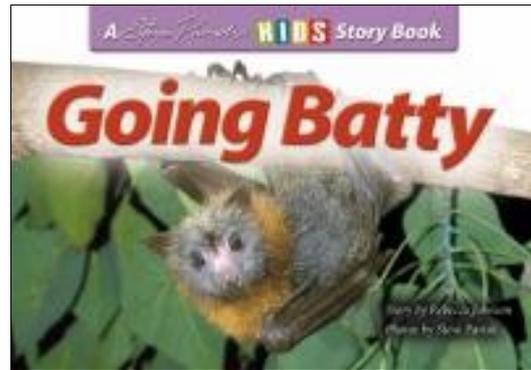
Photographer [Steve Parish](#)

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Ages: 3 + Years



'Is Freddie seeing things? There are dangers everywhere he looks but are they real or imagined? Find out how Freddie finds a unique solution to avoid going batty!

Fruit bats, otherwise known as flying-foxes, hang upside down from their perches. Valves in their veins prevent blood from collecting in their brains. Even though they live upside down, they have exceptional eyesight and unlike micro-bats, their smaller cousins, fruit bats don't need to use echolocation to navigate'.

- Steve Parish Publishing

Meet the Crèche locals

Our crèche and release facility at Cleveland is crawling with wildlife. Not only are our precious flying-foxes who are both temporary residents and visitors there, but also many other critters. While cutting fruit and filling up the food trays it's been great to also watch many of the locals come to say hello such as the magpies, wallabies, koalas, ducks, hares, the occasional echidna and plovers that our volunteers have watched grow up from fluffy little chicks.



Scratch searches for dropped apples from the night before.

The fruit cutters are very popular with the scrub turkeys including baby 'Scratch', following them around as they fill the troughs, although the turkeys seem to be more interested in picking out fruit from the buckets than having a chat. One magpie in particular recognises our volunteer Nigel's van and follows him around patiently until it's offered a bit of apple to eat.

On dusk, the fruit is ready and it's time to watch the bats fly in from the 'Black Swamp'. But we suspect there are few wild ones taking advantage of our generosity! It's truly magical and very rewarding sight. Even Microbats have been spotted flying around catching the night time bugs.

A big thanks to Barbara and Nigel Hood who have done a fabulous job keeping the crèche going and Barbara for looking after the roster everyday over the past five months. With 110 orphans and over 20 rehab adults in 3 batches it has been a constant job. A special thanks to Stuart Wade and his time saving apple cutting invention. We can't wait for the bicycle cutter, we can keep fit, get slim ankles as well as cut the apples!

Thanks to everyone who has helped to cut fruit; WELL DONE, great effort!

Thank you also to Gavin for arranging the abundance of apples for both Warra crèche and for our release site. All members are encouraged to volunteer and help out next season. It doesn't take long and volunteering just a couple of times makes a difference. Watch out for the gumboot trend setters, they are a must see experience too!



Nosey the echidna passes through

WELCOME



Jennifer Lang

Keith Falkiner

Margaret and Henry Snowden

Craig Hardie

Isabelle Erbacher

Sue Godfrey

Emily Archbold

Ben Prentice

Justine Oxley

May you all go batty very quickly!

Presidents Report

Here we are half way through the year already. Bats fly but by golly so does time! We have already notched up 400 calls into the service. Before we know it, it will be baby season again. Some of you I know can't wait but I know there is a lot of work to prepare you all to be ready. Many members don't recognise the work involved in training days (so please make the effort!) The information we give at these days is vital if you want to care for orphans and is compulsory. Things change constantly and so do better ways to care for bats—don't think you know it all because you don't, after 16 years I'm still learning—a lot of it from you. Some new members think up fabulous ways of doing things but some things never change and you cannot make mistakes or babies suffer. That is why these days are so important, days for sharing information and stories and about learning. Please note the dates for training and make them a priority event. We make up goody bags, things you may not be able to buy so be there or no babies!



Very talented member Jo Janssens has made the most delightful bat toys, we have some pretty talented members, see their handiwork at our events!

The phone is now on a roster and I'm delighted that it will only come back around in about a 6-7 week cycle. It is the most important part of our business as accurate information about bats is sorely missing out there, way too much misinformation —It makes me cringe when I hear what the public are being told. It's even more frightening when the misinformation comes from what the public would expect correct sources. Grrr! Please make sure if you are called by the phone coordinator to call them back when your rescue has been completed. Give them as much detail as you can about why the bat was there.

The AGM is an important time for our volunteer organization to fill committee positions and these days it is always difficult to find dedicated and committed people for the tasks. We do our rescue and care service very well as we are reliable and responsible. As a young developing organization we are working on our organizational structure and the present committee of BCB urges everyone to think about how they can help to make us an even better organization, even if you can only help in a small way we are open to comments and suggestions. As a member of Volunteers Qld we are assured of more assistance with governance over the coming months. Keep safe and go batty! With esteem to all —Louise

Overseas Correspondence

BCB have been able to assist many people via email even overseas. Below is a call for help from Ryan in Iraq. We were able to provide him with advise and support .



Baby microbats from last season.

To whom it may concern-

This is an emergency, I have no clue what I am doing. I have a species of bats living in the building I work in, in Iraq. The mother seems to keep kicking this one baby out of her roost. I am not sure of the species, and I would like to know how to care for this baby if I find it on the ground again. I have no clue how to. I like the bats because in and around our building it is bug free, because of these little guys. But I continue to find this young one on the ground and I pick him up with surgical gloves on and put him back in the nest and I find him back on the ground. What do I do?

Thanks,
Ryan - USA Sergeant

Moist Fruit Cutters Coconut Cake

4 eggs, whipped

½ cup butter or a bit less, melted

¾ cups castor sugar

½ cup plain flour

1 cup desiccated coconut

400 ml coconut milk

Combine ingredients. Bake for 50-60 minutes in moderate oven. If not non-stick, leave to cool before turning out.

Yummy!

Bat Care Brisbane Events

Spectacular Petacular

What a fantastic weekend! The 'Spectacular Petacular' at the RNA show grounds bought all kinds of people, pets, wildlife and exotic critters. We were fortunate to have a huge space for our stall where we hung our brand new banners with pride.

Two of our orphans Monty and Pippi stole the hearts of many amazed and intrigued visitors. It was a great opportunity to educate the public who normally wouldn't have exposure to the real story and facts about our furry friends.

We received a lot a positive feedback from the public who we not only provided educational material, but also sold merchandise for people (not animals) of all ages. We were quite popular with the kids!



Each day there was a show on the centre stage where Louise gave an informative and entertaining talk with one of the babes to show. Also the Microbat boxes from the Logan City Council grant proved to be a big success.

Looking forward to next year, make sure you put your hand up for this one.



Above: BCB's stall with our new impressive banners.

Top right: Batman paid us a visit and gave our stall two thumbs up!



Above: Roe & Monty having a snuggle.

Left: Sue with Pippi the 'sleepy head' talking to a young family

Gilbert's Diary



Bbbrrrrrr.....Getting chilly isn't it!

Just as well my coat's get's thick and warm for winter. Oh, and it's Glossy and full and Louise can't help herself giving me lots of cuddles. Speaking of Louise, she's been going away on a few trips recently. But the last trip south, I spotted her sporting a lovely new scarf, kindly knitted by one of our wonderful carers. What about one for 'The Gilbert'? Not that I'd necessarily wear it, but it would look great hanging up in my bachelor pad.

My bachelor pad. This is where I chill out and recoup after a big show. I have a great view and an array of coloured blankets that hang down and protect me from the cold winter winds. I often catch my neighbours Jackie and Monique sneaking into my place each night! I guess I don't mind as a little more warmth, even if it's just what radiates from my legendary aura.

I get lots of visitors too. A mixture of orphans and rehabbers were released earlier this year from DPI and a few drop in for a chat every now and then. "Stay away from Cocos palms and barbed wire" I tell them. Our special carers have spent a lot of time and effort getting you out on parole, so don't blow it!

Until next time, keep warm, hang up and hang loose!

Your Gilbert



At Logan and Chermside - Gilbert's fans have great fun visiting our stalls.



2009 BCB Events - Check out our website calendar for fun, educational activities and events. See you there!

Looking For a New Hobby?

Pick up these knitting 'looms' from 'spotlight' for around \$20. Make your own knit wear for the approaching cold or knit to donate to Bat Care Brisbane for our stall at the next up and coming event!



Above: Handy work of Trish Goodwin



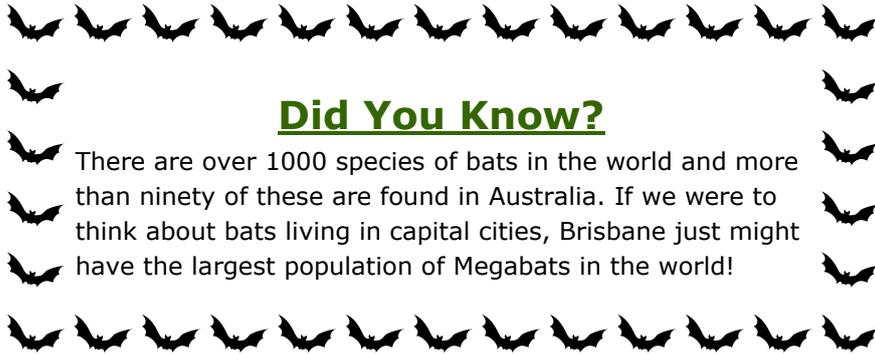
NOTICE

- The ribbons and CD's on this barbed-wire fence are to alert flying-foxes that there is a danger here.
- Thousand of bats die cruel, painful deaths impaled on barbs every year in our suburbs.
- Fruiting and flowering trees planted near barbed-wire are death traps for them.
- Please watch out for bats on barbed-wire, DO NOT assist them, please call trained rescuers immediately.
- For rescue call Bat Care Brisbane on 0488 228 134



Thank you to 'Arrow Signs' for donating this sign (on the left) for installation at a hot spot where we have removed many distressed and injured flying-foxes off barbed-wire in the past.

It's one of many ways Bar Care Brisbane is working towards educating and informing the public.



Did You Know?

There are over 1000 species of bats in the world and more than ninety of these are found in Australia. If we were to think about bats living in capital cities, Brisbane just might have the largest population of Megabats in the world!

Donations

The following people have made kind donations to Bat Care Brisbane Inc.

Jenni

David & Elki Lennard

Keely Saunders

**Redlands Indigiscape
Friends Association**

Mr & Mrs Pitt

**Biodiversity Assessment
and Management Pty Ltd.**

-Thank you

Sponsorships

Kind donations will help our education bats go out to entertain the public and help raise orphaned babies.

Thanks to:-

**Gaby Saunders
Theodora Chan**



BATTY BOAT CRUISES 2009

- 2009 November 1st Sunday
- 2009 November 22nd Sunday
- 2009 December 6th Sunday
- 2009 December 13th Sunday

**Organize a Batty Boat
Cruise with your family
and friends, learn about
the river and our bats.**



**Donations are gratefully appreciated to help us in our difficult work if you would like to help us please email:
treasurer@bats.org.au**



CONTACT BAT CARE BRISBANE

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0488 228 134

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DISCLAIMER:

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