

BWR



BAROSSA WILDLIFE RESCUE



ANNUAL REPORT
2022/23

BWR ANNUAL REPORT 22/23

Barossa Wildlife Rescue acknowledges that the lands we operate on are the traditional lands for the Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kurna peoples, and we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.

We honour the integral role they have played for millennia in looking after this country, including its local wildlife, and acknowledge their unbroken, ongoing relationship with country.

Thanks to Sheree Venter (Secretary) and Meredith McLean (Treasurer) for planning, preparing content and coordinating the preparation of the report. Thanks to Melanie McLean for the report's fantastic design.

Thanks to the following members for contributing various updates: Greg Linke (Chair), Rose Brooks (Operations Manager), Chelsea Linke (Vice-Chair), Michael Scutter (committee member), Vanessa Sullivan (committee member), and Simon Taylor (Large Wildlife Team Leader).





PRODUCED BY

Barossa Wildlife Rescue.

PO Box 386, Lyndoch SA 5351

© Barossa Wildlife Rescue 2023

ABN 30 944 287 59

Barossa Wildlife Rescue is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and not for profit Commission (ACNC).

All photos in this report are copyright to Barossa Wildlife Rescue.

Thank you to Laura Massey @roaming.vision for her contribution of professional photos of our wildlife.

Cover photo: Ziggy - Ringtail Possum.
@roaming.vision

CONTENTS

About BWR	5
Our History	6
A Message from our Chair	7
A Message from our Operations Manager	8
Our 2022/23 Impact	9
Your Donations at Work	10
Our Rescue Efforts	11
Our Operations	
Training	12
Rescue Hotline, xMatters	14
Large Wildlife Rescue	15
Facilities, Veterinary Support	16
Collaboration, Engagement & Advocacy	
Media Strategy	17
Community Engagement, WUSA	18
Financial Overview	
A Message from our Treasurer	19
Grants and Sponsorships	20
Fundraising	21
Thank you for your Support!	22
Deductable Gift Recipient Status	23
Balance Sheet	24
Profit and Loss Statement	25
Balance Sheet, P&L Statement Notes	26
Audit Opinion Letter	27
Our Organisation	
The Committee	28
Policies, Membership, Insurance	29
Looking Ahead	
Strategic Plan	30
Possum Palace	31
Kangaroo Sanctuary	32



Lucy-Lou - Western Grey Kangaroo

ABOUT BAROSSA WILDLIFE RESCUE

Barossa Wildlife Rescue (BWR) is a community-run charity that provides wildlife rescue, rehabilitation & release services in the Barossa Valley region.

Through education, outreach and advocacy, BWR educates the community to embrace conservation and recognise the value of our local wildlife.

We are made up of a tight knit community of dedicated volunteers from all walks of life, ranging in ages from 12 to 80+. BWR celebrates diversity and works to empower its members to learn and grow.



Reggie - Long Billed Corella

OUR HISTORY



Rose Brooks & Guaca

Barossa Wildlife Rescue started 24 years ago, when founder Rose Brooks, rescued her first kangaroo joey, Bunty, a 6 month old orphaned Euro.

For almost 20 years BWR was predominantly Rose caring for wildlife out of her own home, with the support of a few likeminded wildlife lovers and local youth.

As word spread and Rose became synonymous with wildlife in the Barossa community, the demand for BWR's services increased significantly.

Rose recognised the importance of our work, and the need for BWR to be built into something that could stand the test of time.

With the support of Simon Taylor and the Southern Barossa Alliance (SBA), the decision was made for BWR to become a member-led incorporated association.

BWR was auspiced under the SBA for 2 years while it established the required governance and applied to become an incorporated organisation.

As of July 1 2022, BWR has been operating as an independent incorporated organisation and registered charity.

From humble beginnings BWR has grown beyond Rose's wildest dreams.



Guaca - Brushtail Possum

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

I was recently faced with the daunting task of building the aviaries for our possum palace project. Brad at Royal Rooster suggested it would take 4 people half a day to assemble one of their aviaries. That statement was a bit overwhelming, being 1 person with 8 aviaries to build, and then install.

Fortunately, the amazing team at Treasury Wine Estates volunteered 5 people to help out and we had the first 4 aviaries built in a day. The second day needed a whole lot more work to install them, but with a few more BWR volunteers, we had them done in just a few hours.

Many hands really do make light work. A handful of people putting in a couple hours per week achieves a great deal. 1 or 2 people putting in many hours not only burns people out, but puts the organisation at great risk when those key people just can't do it any longer. It has become clear that this needs to be a guiding principle in our strategy.

In the past year our BWR family achieved a great deal, finally managing to transition from an establishment phase to a steady state. We have managed to get our compliance and procedures in place, whilst at the same time growing the number of rescues by around 30%, reinventing our media and marketing presence, implementing the xMatters callout system, and through a big effort in fundraising, grants and sponsorship - we've built the best financial standing in BWR's history.



Greg and 2 Ringtail Possums

It was fantastic to have so many members at the strategic planning workshop in August, and whilst we are still formalising the strategic plan, the takeouts are clear. It's time to regroup and remember why BWR exists - for the animals, but also for our members.

We need to acknowledge, embrace and grow our membership through education, inclusiveness, and collaboration. And we need to leverage and extend our strong public image to build financial security through sponsorships, allowing us to keep our focus on the real reason we are here.

Greg Linke
BWR Chair
September 2023

A MESSAGE FROM OUR OPERATIONS MANAGER



Rose Brooks

When I cared for my first kangaroo joey Bunty about 24 years ago, I never imagined that Barossa Wildlife Rescue would be the result so many years later. From that one joey and just myself, we have now grown to a rescue that takes in almost 800 animals from all over the Barossa Valley every year.

I'm bloody proud of where we've come.

We've got 57 members, 9 Wildlife Carers, a great caring culture, and a whole lot of community support.

The last year has been a really big year. We stepped up to another year of 27% growth in rescue numbers. To help care for these large numbers, we've supported 16 members to apply for their Wildlife Carer Permits.

We've also grown the Large Wildlife Rescue Team to improve our ability to respond to injured large wildlife. Thank you to that team for doing that horrible job.

Everyone knows I don't love paperwork, but I'm glad that we have now put together operational SOPs for our different activities, to protect our members and keep them safe. We continue to need more people who have governance and management skills to run the organisational side of things, so we can get on with caring for the animals.

I know that our members and members of the public are always interested in learning more about wildlife. We've provided training and talks to many community groups, and also offered training courses for our members to attend.

I'm excited about the upcoming upgrades to our possum enclosures and am thankful for Bank Australia's Community Grant Program. These new possum enclosures will give more space for our resident and new possums and birds to climb and explore.

Looking ahead, a Kangaroo Sanctuary is our next big step, and I hope it will happen in the next year, after all this time hoping and planning for it. We have numerous kangaroo joeys in care, with nowhere else to go. Setting up a sanctuary will take the weight of worry off all our carers.

I'd like to thank everyone for helping to build BWR so that no animal in need goes it alone or suffers.

Rose Brooks
Operations Manager
September 2023

OUR 2022/23 IMPACT



786 Animals Rescued

481

Calls for advice answered

94

Critically injured Kangaroos euthanised

27%

Year on year increase in total rescues



25,670

Facebook Reach

13

Newspaper Articles



BAROSSA WILDLIFE RESCUE

New logo launched!



New record keeping system



5 in-house training events



WUSA Founding Member

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

For every \$100 received
by Barossa Wildlife
Rescue...

\$34 Animal Food
For all animal food,
including infant
formulas



Frits & Lucy-Lou

**\$13 Animal
Care**
Veterinary costs,
consumables,
cleaning,
sanitation,
animal rescue &
feeding



Nugget

\$5 Marketing
For our
rebranding,
including new
signage



George

**\$19 Equipment
& maintenance**
For small assets
such as rescue &
care equipment,
and ongoing
upkeep and
maintenance of
facilities



Sheree & Meredith

**\$12 Volunteer
Costs**
For volunteer
training, workshops
& Large Wildlife
Rescue Team
insurance



Curry - Currawong

**\$4
Fundraising**
For operating
costs associated
with fundraising
activities



Michael & Rose

OUR RESCUE EFFORTS

786 RESCUES

84 Kangaroos



83,465

Total days
wildlife spent
in our care



136 Possums

25

Possum joeys
hand-raised

489 Birds



13

Kangaroo joeys
hand-raised in
long-term care

12 Echidnas



9

Members with
Wildlife Carer
Permits



44 Reptiles

7

Members with
pending Wildlife
Carer Permit
applications



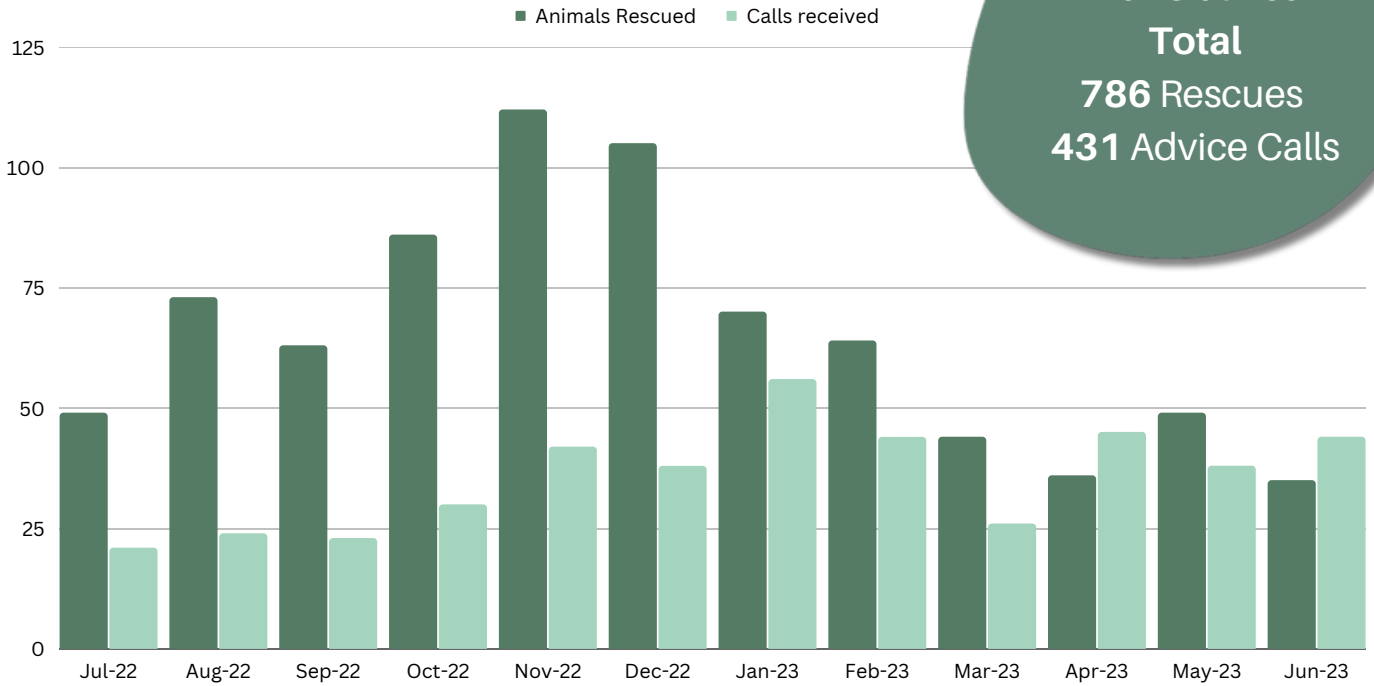
16 Koalas

9

Members with
pending
Restricted Wildlife
Carer Permits

OPERATIONS 2022-23

**Financial Year
Total**
786 Rescues
431 Advice Calls



Final outcomes by animal type (as % of all outcomes for that animal type)

	Released	Deceased	Still in Care	Retain	Other
All Animals	27%	61%	6%	1%	6%

Note: this data relates to rescues from December 1 2022 until the end of the financial year. This is due to the tagging system only coming into effect in mid-November. "Other" outcomes include instances such as animals transferred to another organisation, escapees, or animals not found at the rescue site. "Deceased" includes spontaneous deaths and euthanasia by a vet.

OUR OPERATIONS

TRAINING

Training is recognised as a key enabler to up-skill our members and grow BWR's rescue and rehabilitation capabilities.

- 35 BWR volunteers and members of the public attended our Basic Wildlife First Aid workshop in August 2022, to positive feedback, "very informative on basic care of animals"
- BWR co-hosted a "Bushfire Preparedness for Wildlife Carers" workshop in October 2022 with Lyndoch CFS, and representatives from CFS regional and head office
- 18 volunteers were trained to follow our updated feed-up procedures to improve hygiene and animal husbandry practices
- BWR's three feed-up supervisors attended First Aid and CPR training
- The Large Wildlife Recue Team attended two procedural training workshops and one practical workshop at the Kapunda Rifle Range, with instruction provided by John Coventry
- 18 members were financially supported to attend specialised training offered by SOWFI, Dr Anne Fowler and WIRES
- A WIRES training grant enabled 9 members to complete their National Introduction to Wildlife Rescue online course.



Kelsey - How to check a pouch talk.

Volunteer Roles & Training Pathways

As BWR continued to grow, a need was recognised to define our volunteer roles, their training pathways and required qualifications.

The following roles were outlined in a new Procedure: Wildlife Assistant (feed-up), Wildlife Carer, Rescuer, Transporter and Large Wildlife Rescue Team. This should assist in guiding new members in how they can attain various roles, and in standardising the process.



Lyndoch CFS with an echidna rescued from a drainpipe.

Rescue Hotline

The Hotline is primarily answered by the Operations Manager, with ad hoc assistance from other experienced wildlife carers. This reliance on a single member had been identified as a key operational risk. Options to address this risk will be explored during FY23-24. In the first instance, a Phone Operator Handbook will be compiled, and additional experienced carers trained in answering the hotline and dispatching rescuers, to enable a roster-based system to be implemented.



xMatters Implementation

Historically, when a rescue was required, our Operations Manager needed to ring around our rescue volunteers until someone was found to be available.

This created additional pressure on the Operations Manager, both in terms of needing to recall numerous members' schedules and making many additional calls to find a rescuer. It also resulted in over-reliance on specific rescuers who were known to have better availability than others.

A collaboration with WIRES has been explored and will be implemented early next financial year to address our rescue dispatch needs. WIRES has offered us free licences to the dispatching app xMatters, which should streamline the process and reduce the burden on the Operations Manager. It will also enable a roster-based system for the phone hotline.



L to R Kelsey (wildlife carer), Rose (Ops Manager), Daryl, Paul, Sheree (Secretary), Reuben, Simon (Large Wildlife Rescue Team Leader)

LARGE WILDLIFE RESCUE

Our Large Wildlife Rescue Team is trained and licenced to assess, rescue, relocate or euthanise large wildlife in distress. The Team has grown from 5 to 9 active members, which has allowed us to meet the increasing demand for their services, including an increased reliance by SAPOL on our team.

The team attended 136 callouts during the financial year, of which 94 required euthanasia due to critical injuries. Most of these injuries continue to be caused by car impacts, followed by fence entanglement.

Multiple training sessions have been offered to the team, including practical and procedural training on Firearms safety, large wildlife rescue and handling, and joey rescue. We would like to thank John Coventry for providing high quality practical training to our team.

Most team members are retired or semi-retired, which has proven an advantage, allowing rapid response to reduce animal suffering. The team is based in the southern Barossa however, and we recognise that there continues to be a need to recruit new team members in the northern Barossa region. One additional team member is currently in training, but more are needed to provide comprehensive and rapid coverage of the entire Barossa region.

A collaboration with ForestrySA is scheduled to commence in the next financial year, which will enable our trained team members to euthanise injured wildlife on ForestrySA land, further reducing needless suffering.



Meredith & Nugget constructing the new outdoor sink.

FACILITIES

BWR has invested in additional rescue and rehabilitation equipment to meet the increasing demand for our services, including additional rescue baskets, heat pads and an avian incubator.

We have also invested in rescue and safety equipment for the Large Wildlife Rescue Team, including nets, car hazard lights and large wool packs.

Onsite at BWR HQ, an outdoor sink and hand sanitiser stations were installed to assist in improving hygiene practices.

BWR also successfully applied for a substantial grant from Bank Australia to replace its possum enclosures with eight new, custom-built, spacious enclosures. These grant funds will be received in FY23-24, and the new aviaries will be installed prior to December 2023.

VETERINARY SUPPORT

BWR is grateful for the extraordinary veterinary support provided by Gawler Animal Hospital (Gawler South) and The Vet Clinic (Angaston).

These practices and their staff go above and beyond to care for wildlife in need. Their expert guidance and support continues to result in better outcomes for wildlife, and their partnership is integral to BWR's ability to successfully rehabilitate wildlife.

COLLABORATION, ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY



Guaca - Brushtail Possum

Media Strategy

Our media presence is an important tool in advocating for wildlife, raising community awareness and promoting engagement in wildlife conservation. A media working group was established by the Committee to review our media presence and develop a media strategy.

Most notably, BWR launched a new logo and branding. We loved our old logo, but it was time for a custom-designed logo to better represent the growth of the organisation. Our new logo is based on a photo of one of our rescue possums, Jelly, designed by our Chair Greg Linke. We hope this fun new logo will make us more appealing to corporate sponsors and more approachable to the young people who are our future.

A social media review led to a refresh of our social media style, including a focus on high quality photos paired with informative post content. This resulted in a doubling of our Facebook content reach to 25,670 and almost 400 new Facebook page likes.

A dedicated Media Manager will need to be recruited to lead ongoing social media content creation, and a refresh of our website.



Rose presenting to the Barossa Retirement Village.

Community Engagement

BWR seeks to educate the community on the value of conserving our local wildlife. This includes educating people on the remarkable attributes of various local species, how to make an initial assessment on whether an animal requires intervention, and how to safely check and rescue a joey from pouch.

BWR presented to the following community groups during FY22-23: Kiwanis, Nuriootpa Lutheran Fellowship, Barossa Probus, Barossa Garden Club, Barossa Bird Club and Barossa Retirement Village. BWR also had a presence at community events, including the Lyndoch Christmas Party and the Villawood William Lakes Grand Opening event.

BWR was also successful in securing a grant from Foundation Barossa to deliver youth education sessions to local high schools.



Wildlife United SA (WUSA)

BWR is a founding member of Wildlife United SA (WUSA), a coalition of 5 South Australian wildlife rescue organisations with the purpose of collaborating and advocating for wildlife conservation and the interests of wildlife rescue organisations.

This past year has been one of significant progress for WUSA. We have set up regular meetings with the Department of Environment and Water, where we advocate for change to legislation to help aid wildlife carers in doing the work they do best.

We have become connected to the RSPCA, and will be establishing regular meetings with the CEO of the RSPCA to discuss the advancement of the RSPCA wildlife hospital and the roles that wildlife carers will play in its function. And more recently, WUSA has met with representatives from WIRES to discuss funding and give feedback on WIRES contributions to volunteer carers.

All of this moves towards more support and more recognition for our efforts. WUSA will be entering this new year with more drive for change than ever before.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Barossa Wildlife Rescue (BWR) has made good progress this year in establishing sound financial practices with updates to budget planning and financial control policies. I am confident that going forward we will continue to improve our financial management with the continuous review of policies and procedures and implementation of changes as needed.

Barossa Wildlife Rescue's expenditure this financial year was slightly under the 2022/2023 budget. However, with 27% increase in rescues from the previous year, our expenditure for animal food and care was slightly over budget. Adjustments have been made to the budget to allow for a further increase in rescues in FY23-24.

Donations received were in line with our 2022/2023 budget forecast and fundraising and sponsorships exceeded our budgeted amounts. We had a surplus of \$9,437 this financial year, which includes \$3,500 Barossa Co-op Sponsorship and \$1,000 grant from Foundation Barossa that will be expended on a project in FY23-24.

We received \$14,780 of in-kind donations this financial year from our generous supporters in the Barossa community. We used \$8,975 of the in-kind donations for our Christmas raffle and Quiz night silent auction and prizes. The remaining in-kind donations will be used for fundraising activities in the 2023/24 FY.



Meredith & Yarlou - Western Grey joey

Anomalies have been identified with the recorded assets and adjustment will be made in FY23-24 to correct these anomalies.

We established a fundraising committee this year and conducted several successful fundraising activities that were well supported by the Barossa Community. We would like to thank all the local businesses who supported BWR with in-kind donations for our fundraising activities.

BWR was registered with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission this year back dated to 19/01/2022. Our application for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status that was submitted in conjunction with our application for Charity status, was rejected as we are required to be on the Register of Environmental Organisations before applying for DGR endorsement. Work is in progress to submit our application for DGR endorsement.

Meredith McLean
Treasurer
October 2023

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

BWR is thankful to have received several significant grants and sponsorships during this financial year. This support provides vital funds to feed and care for wildlife, invest in critical equipment, and repair and upgrade facilities.

The Barossa Co-Op: BWR was awarded a Gold sponsorship by the Barossa Co-op. This sponsorship is a three-year partnership which provides \$3,500 store credit per annum at Barossa Co-op stores. This funding has been used for hardware for facilities repairs and upgrades, health and hygiene consumables, and food. A significant portion will also be used to purchase concrete sleepers as foundations for the new aviaries being installed by the Possum Palace Project.

Bank Australia: BWR was awarded \$19,408 for the Possum Palace Project, as part of Bank Australia's Community Customer Grants program. The funds will be received and expended in FY23-24. More information about this project is included later in this report.



Sheree, Vanessa, Rose & Emily receiving the Villawood Community Grant cheque

Villawood William Lakes: as part of their Community Grants Program BWR was awarded a \$1,000 grant towards our 2022 springtime operational expenses. This also enabled us to purchase an avian incubator.

Pernord Ricard Winemakers: kindly awarded us a \$1,000 grant towards operational expenses.

Foundation Barossa: allocated us a \$1,000 grant to design and deliver 4 workshops to local high schools with the aim of educating them on local wildlife, and how to recognise and respond to wildlife in distress, titled "Re-wilding our youth". The grant deadline has been extended to end of Term 1, 2023.

FUNDRAISING

A Christmas raffle was conducted in late 2022, with 26 prizes donated by local businesses, raising just over \$2,000.

The need for a fundraising strategy and more regular fundraising efforts was recognised, resulting in the formation of the Barossa Wildlife Rescue Fundraising Sub-Committee in January 2023. It conducted one major fundraising event in May 2023 and has planned additional activities for FY23-24.

The first event in 2023 was our first trivia night and auction held at Barossa Chateau. It was an enormous success with a lot of support from local businesses and the public. The venue was donated at no cost to BWR and Sean Craig Murphy donated his time to MC the night. A silent auction was conducted on the night with all auction items donated by local businesses. Prizes given out on the night were also donated. We raised just over \$4,000 from the quiz night. Feedback received from attendees at the quiz night was very positive.



Trivia Night



MC Sean Craig Murphy at the inaugural Trivia Night

The activities planned for the remainder of the year include a Tea Towel fundraiser with art work from local children and a Spring Donation Drive. Both of these activities were completed by September 2023.

The Spring Donation Drive collected goods to help us through our busiest time of the year, run with the support of Barossa Fresh. It was a remarkable success with a bounty of supplies received.

The months ahead have us running a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Gawler and our annual Christmas Raffle.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS

BWR would like to say thank you to all our supporters, big and small, cash and in-kind, and everything in between. Without your incredible support, we could not do continue our work.

BWR would like to acknowledge the following donors, who made contributions of over \$500:

- Genista Wines
- Lyndoch Ballroom Dancers
- JL Fechner
- St Hugo Wines
- Williamstown Senior Citizens

BWR would like to acknowledge the following donors, who made cash contributions:

- Probus
- Lutheran Lay-peoples League of Australia
- Barossa Council Staff
- Synergy Body and Wellness
- Valley Rockers

BWR would like to thank the following donors who made In-kind contributions:

- Sarah Gregory of Genista Wines, for hosting and supporting our webpage and helping develop our media strategy
- Chateau Barossa, Pernord Ricard, Seppelts Cooperage, and Seppelts Barossa
- 57 local businesses supported us with donations for our Christmas Raffle and Silent Auction at the Quiz Night





Kooka - Kookaburra

APPLICATION FOR DEDUCTIBLE GIFT RECIPIENT STATUS

Barossa Wildlife Rescue is seeking to have donations and gifts received be eligible as tax deductions. It is hoped this will attract a group of donors we don't currently receive support from and bolster our finances.

To apply for Deductible Gift Recipient Status as a wildlife rescue organisation, we must first be listed as a Registered Environmental Organisation (REO) by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). This requires Constitutional changes to form a Public Funds Management Committee, which are to be proposed at a Special General Meeting in August 2023. A minimum of 50 financial voting members is also required. A membership drive is planned for early next financial year.

It is anticipated that the application to become a REO and receive DGR status will be made by the end of 2023. It can take up to a year for the application to be considered by DCCEEW. Thank you to Michael Scutter (Committee member) who has driven the work in researching and implementing the changes required to enable this application

BALANCE SHEET

Balance Sheet		
Barossa Wildlife Rescue Inc.		
As at 30 June 2023		
	Account	30 Jun 2023
Assets		
	Bank	
	Barossa Wildlife Rescue ACCESS	576.16
	Barossa Wildlife Rescue SAVER	26,198.19
	Total Bank	26,774.35
	Current Assets	
	Accounts Receivable	19,408.00
	Non Cash Donations Held in Trust	2,569.33
	Total Current Assets	21,977.33
	Fixed Assets	
	Equipment	11,839.05
	Total Fixed Assets	11,839.05
Total Assets		60,590.73
Liabilities		
	Current Liabilities	
	Accounts Payable	452.18
	Funds Held in Trust	19,408.00
	Total Current Liabilities	19,860.18
Total Liabilities		19,860.18
	Net Assets	40,730.55
Equity		
	Current Year Earnings	9,437.87
	Retained Surplus/(Accumulated Losses)	31,292.68
Total Equity		40,730.55

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

Profit and Loss	
Barossa Wildlife Rescue Inc.	
For the year ended 30 June 2023	
Account	30 June 2023
Other Income	
Donations	14,929.98
Fundraising Income	7,638.88
Grants	2,000.00
Memberships	855.00
Other/Sundry Income	439.19
Sponsorship	4,500.00
Total Other Income	30,363.05
Operating Expenses	
Accounting/Bookkeeping Fees	602.86
Animal food - birds	2,258.83
Animal food - infants	1,073.95
Animal Food - Kangaroo	1,569.41
Animal food - other animals	60.55
Animal food - possum	2,089.48
Consumables - animal care/rescue	978.90
Consumables - cleaning & sanitation	595.90
Fees and Permits	135.46
Fundraising Expenses	824.01
General Expenses	57.44
Insurance - General	655.00
Internet, WIFI, Website	360.00
Meeting Expenses	122.01
Phone	360.00
Postage, Freight & Courier	93.39
Promotional	1,016.87
Repairs and Maintenance	1,192.12
Small Assets < \$500	2,696.53
Stationery	466.90
Training Expenses	1,878.78
Veterinary Expenses	1,103.16
Volunteer Costs	448.63
Volunteer large animal rescue	285.00
Total Operating Expenses	20,925.18
Net Profit	9,437.87

BALANCE SHEET NOTES

With additional permitted carers and the number of rescues continuing to increase, we anticipate we will need to purchase additional heat pads and portable enclosures to ensure all carers have appropriate equipment to carry out rescues and care for the animals in their care.

Purchase of additional rescue equipment for large animal rescues is also expected. The grant received from Bank Australia and some of the funds from Barossa Co-op will be used to complete our Possum Palace project.

We may need to use cash funds to contribute to establishing the Kangaroo Sanctuary, if we are successful in securing land for this purpose.

The total fixed assets amount will be adjusted this financial year to correct anomalies identified last financial year.



PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT NOTES

Expenditure on most budget categories was close to or under the budgeted amount for the 22/23 FY with the exception of animal food, fundraising and small assets.

The increase in rescues accounts for the difference with animal food costs. Additional small asset expenditure was mostly funded with the grant received from Villawood for purchase of equipment for the large animal rescue team.

Additional fundraising expenditure was due to purchase of reusable donation collection tins and higher than anticipated expenditure on fundraising events.



Barossa Wildlife Rescue Inc.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
Barossa Wildlife Rescue

Scope

I have audited the Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet Statements and the Barossa Wildlife Rescue Inc. The association's committee is responsible for the financial reports and has determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 South Australia and are appropriate to meet the needs of the association and its members. I have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Barossa Wildlife Rescue Inc. The Profit and Loss Statement has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 South Australia. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the Balance Sheet Statement to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared. My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and my procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the Profit and Loss Statement.

These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material aspects, the Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet Statements are presented fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting policies, so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the organisation's financial performance and position as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows. These policies do not require application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet Statements present fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting policies, the financial performance of the Barossa Wildlife Rescue Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2023.



Steve Balch Consulting
31st July 2023

OUR ORGANISATION

THE COMMITTEE

The function of the BWR Committee is to collectively ensure the delivery of the organisation's mission, to set our strategic direction, and to uphold our values. The Committee should collectively be responsible and accountable for ensuring and monitoring that the organisation is performing well, is solvent, and is complying with all its legal, financial, and ethical obligations.

The Committee meets monthly to oversee matters relating to BWR's establishment as an independent incorporated body and its governance, to discuss strategic matters, and review its financial and operational performance.

CHAIR

Greg Linke

VICE-CHAIR

Chelsea Linke

SECRETARY

Sheree Venter

TREASURER

Meredith McLean

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Rose Brooks

PUBLIC OFFICER

Frits Van Emden

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Vanessa Sullivan

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Tash Morley

COMMITTEE MEMBER

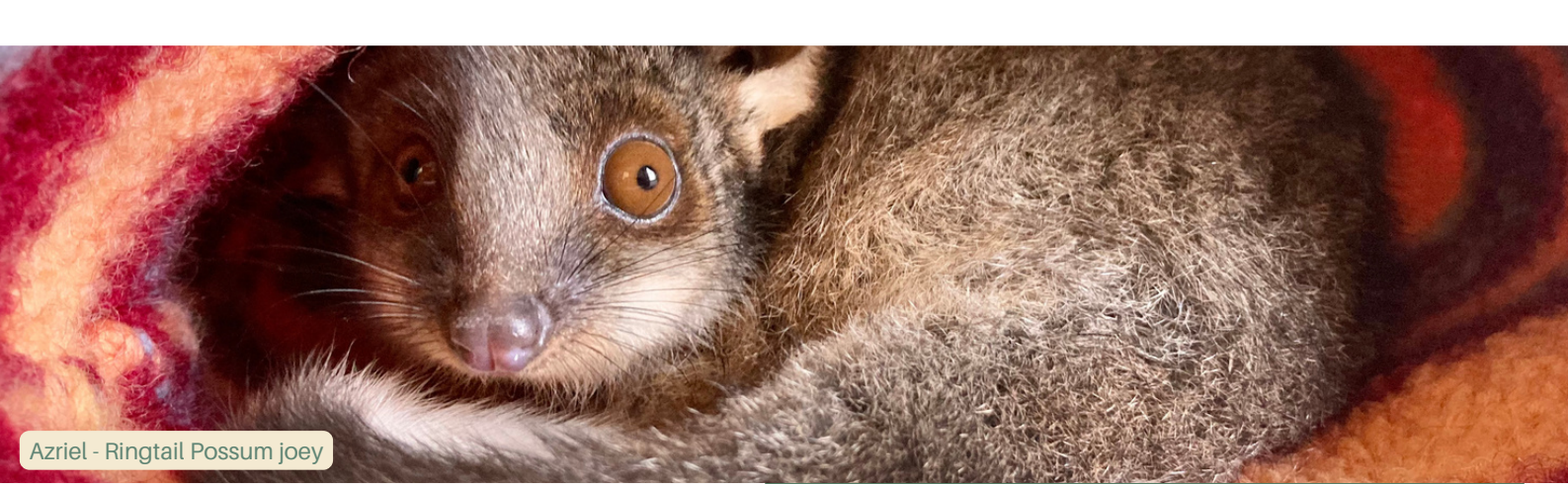
Michael Scutter

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Emily Ray

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Abbey Dale



Azriel - Ringtail Possum joey

ESTABLISHING OUR POLICIES & PROCEDURES

A critical part of establishing BWR as an independent incorporated association was to establish our internal governing policies and procedures, to protect the organisation and its members.

A significant amount of work was done during this period to define, approve and implement a suite of governing policies, addressing robust governance, sound financial management, workplace health and safety and standards of conduct.

Procedures were also defined and implemented for various activities conducted by our members, including induction, incident response, volunteer roles and training pathways, conducting rescues, on-site animal feeding, and handling of wildlife.

A policy addressing working with children and a procedure addressing the activities of the Large Wildlife Rescue Team are in development and will be implemented in the first half of FY23-24.

Thank you to Committee Secretary Sheree Venter for the countless hours spent writing and implementing these policies and procedures.

MEMBERSHIP

BWR had 57 financial members by the end of FY22-23.

A new webpage regarding membership was launched and an online application form developed to increase awareness of our membership opportunities and to streamline the membership application process.

To facilitate our application to be a Registered Environmental Organisation and for Deductible Gift Recipient status, a membership drive will be held in early FY23-24 to boost membership numbers.

BWR was also successfully added to the register of organisations able to accept Centrelink volunteers.

INSURANCE

BWR holds insurance with Keystone Underwriting Australia Pty Ltd, for Public and Products Liability, Personal Accident and Voluntary Workers and Association Liability.

The use of Firearms by licenced Large Wildlife Rescue Team members is insured as part of their annual membership with the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia.

LOOKING AHEAD

STRATEGIC PLAN

A Strategic Plan was developed while auspiced by the SBA. This was translated into Priorities for FY22-23, which have largely been achieved.

BWR Establishment:

- Finalise governance structures and policies (**completed**),
- Ensure adequate operational safety procedures are in place (Large Wildlife Rescue Team SOP outstanding, remaining **completed**),
- Develop and deploy media strategy (**completed**)

Financial stability:

- Investigate obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient Status with the ATO (in progress),
- Secure ongoing corporate sponsorships (ongoing),
- Approach council for support (ongoing)

Wildlife Rescue and Care:

- Secure land and funding for a kangaroo sanctuary (ongoing),
- Increase number of volunteers with Wildlife Carer Permits (**completed**)

Education and training:

- Develop training options and pathways for volunteers (**completed**)

A refreshed Strategic Plan is now required as we transition from establishing BWR as an independent incorporated organisation to a more “business as usual” time focusing on animal care. A workshop will be held in early FY23-24 to invite members’ input into this refreshed Strategic Plan



Reggie - Long-Billed Corella



Cassian - Brushtail Possum

POSSUM PALACE PROJECT

The Possum Palace Project will address Barossa Wildlife Rescue's infrastructure crisis by installing eight spacious, locally-sourced possum aviaries and upgrading some existing enclosures, complete with possum lifestyle enrichment features. As demand for wildlife rescue services in the Barossa region continues to skyrocket, these new aviaries will better meet the needs of possums undergoing rehabilitation and those unfit for release.

The Project is being generously funded by a Bank Australia Community Customer Grant of \$19,408.

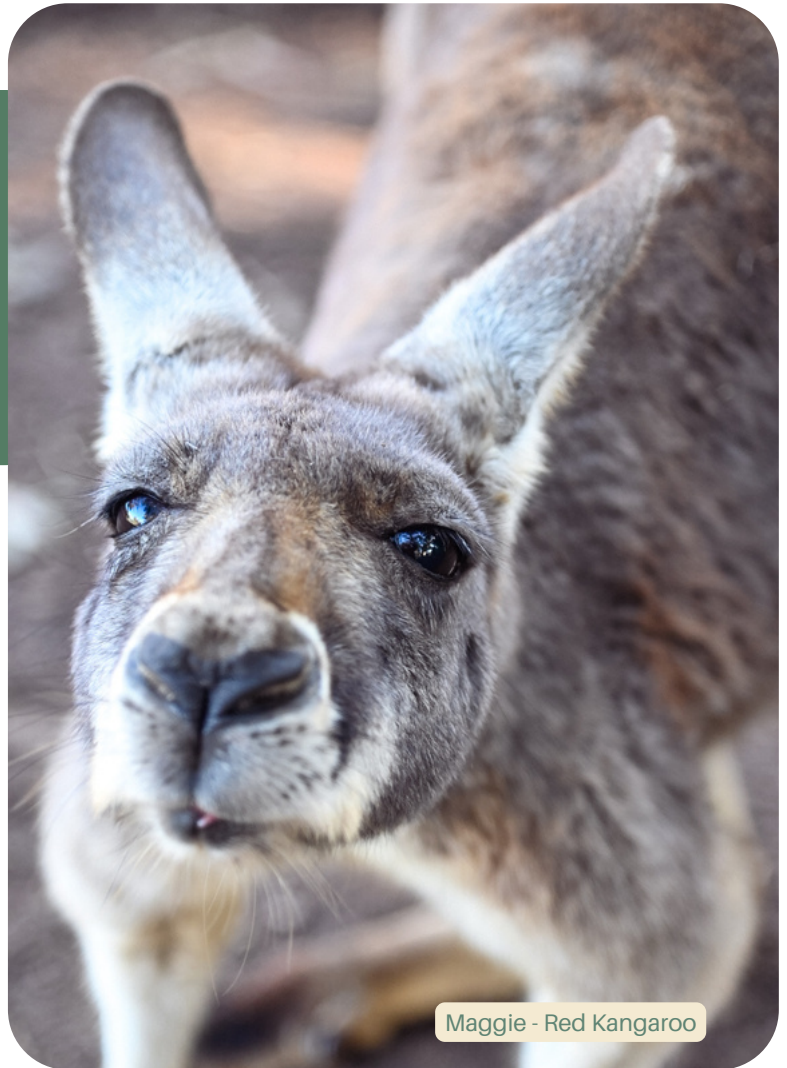
The new aviaries will be installed in two stages to enable the relocation of existing permanent residents. It is planned that installation will be completed by mid-November 2023.

KANGAROO SANCTUARY

Our own kangaroo sanctuary has been an elusive strategic BWR goal for many years, but now the situation across South Australia has become critical.

We currently have 9 hand reared Joeys that cannot be released by law, and will be looking for somewhere to call home in the next 6 months.

However, all our usual placement sanctuaries are at capacity.



Maggie - Red Kangaroo



Dylan & McKenzie with Maggie

Fortunately, we are now tantalisingly close to realising this long-term goal.

We have a fantastic area of land on offer, and are currently working through finalising the details of Council planning & legal agreements.

We are still securing funding through donations, grants and sponsorships, but we remain cautiously optimistic as we contemplate our BWR sanctuary finally becoming a reality.

