

To Tamworth Regional Landcare Association,

I'm putting pen to paper to write you & Thank You for this grant money as well as give you an explanation of my passion for what I do within & around the Northwest Slopes & Plains of NSW.

It's not unusual for our Threatened Species the Grey-headed Flying Fox to winter over in Tamworth & around May 2022 Tamworth had over 300,000 Grey-headed Flying Fox, Threatened Species which (so Tamworth had 2/3rds of all the east coast of Australia's GHFF) come to town & make camp along the Peel River from Gipp st Footbridge to most of the way down King George Ave due to the massive Blossum event in & around the surrounding districts. This Flying Fox Camp area is a Nationally recognised Grey-headed Flying Fox Maternity Camp & they have been coming to Tamworth long before settlement was even thought of.

Thankfully TRC has put in place a Grey-headed Flying Fox Camp Management Plan which allows them to stay, have pups & forage in our area. While I try hard to educate as many towns people as possible on their extreme importance to our Ecosystem & Biodiversity as nighttime Pollinators & Seed dispersers that fly out every night, covering a distance of 50k plus, out & then back again to feed their pups left at creche overnight. I have to say most towns people were happy to have them here with a few not so much. The harassment was kept to a minimum along the Peel & Goonoo Goonoo Creek areas, which I am totally grateful for

Unfortunately, in late May 2022, I was made aware by a member of public who rang Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers that a Flying Fox was caught up on a barbed wire fence, when I arrived, I realised that there were two Grey-headed Flying Fox caught up on this new 4 strand B/wire fence line along Calala Lane. Over the next few months, it had entangled 12 Grey-headed Flying Fox. This was a very distressing time for me being the only vaccinated Flying Fox rescuer/carer with 100ks of Tamworth. Every day, I travelled from Moore Creek to Calala to check this fence line only to find dead or dying Grey-headed Flying Fox which had to be taken over to Greencross Vet at South Tamworth for Euthanasia due the irreparable damage done by the B/Wire.

To cut a very long story short, thankfully the owner of the fence line finally saw reason, that there was a huge problem & has agreed now to leave the orange barrier that TRC had put up to warn the Flying Fox of the barbed wire fence. Which to this day is check regularly to make sure there are no more entanglements.

Now, to get onto another side of what I do, I also rescue Snakes, Eastern Browns, Red Belly Blacks, & the occasional Blue Belly Black Snakes which I feel we are privileged to have in our area as they are not a very common Snake. I rescue these from houses, backyards & many other scenarios for the members of public in & around Tamworth & surrounding Districts. So, as you could appreciate, I have been very busy with these types of rescues with the heat events we have been experiencing. I do love our Venomous Reptiles & have a very healthy respect & understanding of them & their ways. These reptiles are more scared of us than we are of them, who'd have thought hey! Unfortunately, we as are not taught anything about our very own Native Species at schools so therefor, we tend to fear them & unfortunately some people feel the need to kill them which isn't the right thing to do. We need these Reptiles for our Ecosystems & Biodiversity. All our Wildlife are linked to each other, we take one species out then we start to get a break down in our environment. And all our Australian Native Species across Australia are Protected by Laws.

Another side of what I do, are a lot of rescues of our Bird species which takes me all over the place & all different types of scenarios from chasing down Wedge-tail Eagles to being Swooped by Magpies, Butcherbirds & Plovers trying to reunite chicks with their parents. A lot of these baby chicks are

raised at home if I'm not able to reunite, then when they start to fly & are eating their natural foods they are soft released on my property. Soft release is when they are free to fly & come back for food if they are struggling. As well as Birds I also rescue Possums & Microbats that have been caught out in the daytime on buildings, walls of houses or indoors somewhere. I do a lot of travelling to & from all our Vets picking up wildlife to rehabilitate at home. It's never ending but I love what I do even though it's not a paying job, the reward for me is that second chance I can give them to live the life they were meant too.

Since Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers received this wonderful grant from Tamworth Regional Landcare Association June 2022, I have done over 500 rescues. This money from the Grant has been a god send for me, it has paid for so much fuel used, (which would have come out of my own pocket being on a pension) travelling around the Northwest rescuing & saving Wildlife, not only the rescue but also releasing them back to where they came from in their family groups. Which I have to say is the best part of being a Wildlife Volunteer, the reuniting of species, from Birds, Bats, Small Mammals, Marsupials, Monotremes, Lizards, Frogs the list goes on & on, it's never a dull moment for me.

I'd like to take this chance again to say Thank You, to Tamworth Regional Landcare Association for considering & rewarding me with this tremendous gift of money, I can not thank you enough as this has helped so many of our Native Species get that second chance at life.

With warm regards

Jae Price

Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers

Tamworth area branch



# Northern Tablelands Wildlife Carers

## Tamworth Area Coordinators Report

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 thru to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the Tamworth area have had numerous Birds, Bats, Snakes, Lizards, Macropods, Echidnas, Flying Fox, Skinks, Possums & Gliders called in for rescue.

Assorted Native Birds = 78

Raptors Day & Night = 4

Feral Introduced Bird Species = 6

Microbats = 4 plus a colony at Bendemeer which will be contacting MOP in March

Flying Foxes = 11

Possums = 4

Glider = 1

Echidnas = 4

Macropods = 7 Euthanised or DOA

Elapid Snakes = 30 ( 4 being Information calls)

Skinks = 4

Dragons = 2

Turtles = 2

Monitors = 1

And one rubber snake.