



# BAT CHATTER

December 2017

**Bat Conservation  
& Rescue QLD Inc.**  
RESCUE • EDUCATION • CONSERVATION • HABITAT



## HELP OUR CAUSE

Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD. is an entirely voluntary, not-for-profit community organisation. Our members contribute their time and a considerable amount of their own resources to the cause.

All donations are fully tax deductible.

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-  [Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD](#)
-  [Batzilla the Bat](#)
-  [Aussie Made Microbats](#)
-  [Gilbert the Bat](#)
-  [Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD](#)
-  [info@bats.org.au](mailto:info@bats.org.au)

# A word from the President

Hello Folks,

I have been delighted by the co-operation that is happening. Great news! Everybody loves bats and is looking after their welfare. Well, not quite yet. Though thanks to Tania Bishop a meeting was organised this month with the SE Qld local government councils and the various bat groups - can you imagine that happening a few years ago! Held at the Logan City Council Building - what fantastic support from the councils. For our members, I'll keep you informed with Tania Bishop's heat stress notes. A thank you to all those involved in setting this meeting up.

It is up to us to support our local councillors. Even the councillors who are well educated about bats have a hard time when confronted by constituents who want to get rid of bats. They need our support to let them know there are many more people supporting a stand for bats. The most effective means of doing this is to make an appointment and talk to your councillor.

There is also cooperation between the bat groups and we are working to have more accurate counts of bat camps, and to have all the batty people in communication and organised when catastrophes happen.

The bats in Cairns have been having a hard time and Trish is bringing back a load of bats from up north and we have offered whatever assistance we can provide. Australian Bat Clinic is always after volunteers so if you are wondering how to fill your day please give Trish a call.

As someone new to this president caper, I've been learning a new dance as I discover which way is up, and I want to let you all know how grateful I am for teaching me new steps. I'm thankful for the wonderful support from our members taking on and organising whatever they see that needs doing. I also appreciate that you still talk to me after those late night rescue calls. Hello to our new members too and I thank everyone for taking on what you can. Remember when you go on a rescue and the people think how cute the bat is, don't forget to ask them if they want to become a bat carer, after all deep in their hearts everyone wants to look after bats.

Another thing that springs to mind is how many people are unaware of the microbats that surround us. These little bats are very sociable and have distinct personalities which you quickly discover when you have one in care for awhile. Please get in contact with Michelle regarding all things micro.

To end on a light note, I did have a couple phone me at midnight and say that their children were running around outside being chased by bats which have been attacking them and sucking their blood. At least this pair of pranksters now have the emergency phone number for when they really do see a bat in trouble.

Regards

Keith Falkiner

## Flying-Fox Rehabilitator's Report



Orphan season flapped off to a slow start as did our our rehab load which has been relatively quiet to date and sadly, we have had more euthanasias than animals suitable for care.

Netting rescues have been mercifully few so far this season but with exotic figs and mangos about to start fruiting, our luck could rapidly change. If you are called to a netting rescue please remember to supply the homeowner with a free piece of Hailguard which is available from both the north and south sides of Brisbane. Contact me for details.

Just a reminder to advise me immediately if you rescue a mother and baby as they will need to be taken to the nearest member with a flight aviary as soon as possible to avoid extra and unnecessary stress.

Denise Wade  
Flying-fox Rehabilitation Coordinator

# Microbat Rehabilitator's Report



Hi everyone

The micros have been nice and quiet these last few months with only the odd trickle coming in.

Pup season came in slowly and late. I had a few females in care over winter that surprised me with the arrival of pups as soon as it started to warm up.

In September we had a batch head up to the aviary for flight practice and lose those winter pounds ready for release. At the same time the first lot of twins were born in care and the first pups of the season. That soon became 5 sets of twins with only 7 females in care.

The first rescued pup came in early November and they are slowly but surely coming in. They are mostly Broadnose pups with a few juvenile Goulds Wattled and Goulds Long Eared coming in.

It can be difficult with juvenile micros to tell them apart from adults. Please be aware that the juveniles are out there and they are too young to fly. They are about the same size as adults and at first glance you can easily think they only need a few days rest then released. These juvies are still getting milk from mum and starting to experiment with solids not to mention exploring. We are looking at reuniting pups with mums but only in certain circumstances. We have done it a few times this season successfully which is great! If in doubt please contact me.

Microbats are such a pleasure to look after and if anyone wants some experience or learn to feed pups let me know!! Luckily they are quick to feed – only needing a

few drops of milk each feed – and they grow and move on to solids quite fast.

Just remember if you do rescue a pup – don't panic!!  
Keep them warm and give me a call. They're not as scary and fragile as you might think but they do need to be fed as soon as possible. Thanks everyone!!

Michelle Shipp  
Microbat Coordinator

## That's a flying-fox????



On a Sunday morning, one of our carers, Rachael, was called out to a barb-wire rescue for a flying-fox.

To Rachael's great surprise, it was a sugar glider stuck on the wire and not a flying-fox as the caller had stated.

Poor guy was stuck on the barbs of the wire by his stomach and has gone to the RSPCA's hospital for surgery and then into care.

We, at BCRQ, hate barb wire. It is unnecessary and not only bats get caught. Birds and other animals suffer horrific injuries from being caught on wire, with many of these injuries leading to euthanasia.

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## Up to 50 dead in shooting





Some thoughts on a mass shooting from one of our carers Sammy. This has been written by Sammy as she was the person to go out and experience this.

We've probably all had call-outs for bats on barbed wire or netting. These can be tragic and, occasionally, uplifting. For instance, the member of the public who was so horrified at the injuries that she immediately pulled down all of her netting. I offered her wildlife friendly netting but she shook her head – "They can have my fruit, they need it more than I do."

A week or so ago, I was called out to attend to something I never want to experience again.

There had been gunshots at a colony of Grey Headed Flying-Foxes – a lot of gunshots.

I made my way as close to the colony as I could and immediately found four bodies. Over the next 24 hours, 40-50 other bodies were found. Many were lactating females.

One bub was found on its dead mum and rushed to the Wildlife Hospital. A second was seen hanging in a tree with a dead mum below.

That was it. We were able to save only two orphans.

Moving slowly into the colony with binoculars simply sent the bats flying – which of the young left hanging were orphans and which were not? It was impossible to tell.

Day three and we had to give up.

There were doubtless more bodies to be found but the thick scrub under the colony made it all but impossible to search.

Back home, I started to write up my notes and realised I was too exhausted to think. Not physically tired – emotionally washed out; thoughts popping and sinking and tears and screams following me from room to room.

This experience has brought something home to me – not just the senseless cruelty that led to the incident but the need we all have to support each other. To tell our stories large and small and knit a bond of humanity between us all.

The good news – this is the little guy found hanging in the tree – now in care with Carmel Givens and powering.

The bub found on its dead mum is in intensive care with Trish Wemberley.

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# Volunteer Profile

CHUEN MAN



Chuen is one of our newest rescuers and carers but he has been a busy man.

Never one to say no if he can attend a rescue, we are thankful for Chuen for all the

help he provides us.

Chuen was introduced to bats by his neighbours (and they our one of our carers) Stella and Merv. They showed him that bats aren't actually scary and he fell in love with how amazing and important they are.

Chuens most memorable rescue would have to be his first rescue. He rescued a flying-fox off barb wire by himself (not an easy feat - especially as his first rescue ever).

Since this rescue, Chuen Man has had microbats in care as well.

We are thankful for all that Chuen does and his commitment to our flying friends.

## Batty Halloween at Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital



Cara and Melissa visited Australia Zoo on Halloween and Terri Irwin was so besotted with their pups that she insisted on doing a Halloween photo with them.

We thank Australia Zoo for all their help and support that they provide our carers everyday.

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## Ever thought of becoming a member or carer?



Love bats and want to be more hands on?

Have you ever considered becoming a carer?

If caring is not your forte, what about an associate member?

Visit our [page](#) to sign up and if you wish to become a carer, look out for the emails advertising the training courses.

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## Bats in Social Media



Recently INSIDER Pets on Facebook released a lovely piece on our Flying-Fox coordinator Denise (also known as Batzilla). You can view the video [here](#).

UNILAD on Facebook also released a video of a black Flying-Fox eating a banana. You can view the video [here](#).

As always, you can view further videos and articles by clicking on the above links.

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BCRQ Events Calendar - will be available soon



