

## CAN YOU HELP US HELP BATS?

If you would like to help Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld. by becoming a member please visit our web site for membership information.

If you would like to make a Tax deductible donation to Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld. please visit our [Web Site](#) or [Give Now](#) page. Unlike other iconic wildlife we get very little support. These donations are greatly appreciated and help in the recovery of injured and orphaned bats who are our true forest heroes.

ABN: 99 789 706 217

Website: [www.bats.org.au](http://www.bats.org.au)

email: [info@bats.org.au](mailto:info@bats.org.au)

PO Box 1727, Capalaba, Q 4157

Westpac Bank, BSB 034070

Account no. 427443 (Please identify

your deposit & email [treasurer@bats.org.au](mailto:treasurer@bats.org.au))

Illustrations © Louise Saunders



## BATTY BOAT CRUISES

Wildlife Preservation Society, Brisbane Branch run regular Batty Boat Cruises up the Brisbane River to Indooroopilly Island to watch the spectacular flying-fox fly-out over the river. Cruises run regularly between October and March, all monies raised, goes to help bats. Come and meet a bat.

**For Bookings Ph. WPSQ  
(07) 3221 0194**



Photo: John Jacob.

## ABOUT BAT CONSERVATION & RESCUE QLD.

Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc. is a self-funded volunteer organization whose members are permitted under the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to care for sick, injured and orphaned flying-foxes and microbats. We aim to improve the environment for bats, by planting trees, giving talks with education animals, being proactive in reducing the risks such as: barbed wire, mono-filament netting and by working with Energex to upgrade power lines to prevent power outages and the many hundreds of deaths of flying-foxes by electrocution.

Our objectives are:

- To provide accurate and informative education, through literature, talks and community events to the General public about the importance of bats.
- To provide an efficient and humane service to rescue and rehabilitate, sick, injured and orphaned bats, returning them to the wild as soon as and whenever possible.
- To be active in the conservation of bats.
- To follow the guidelines set out by the EPA in their Code of Practice "Care and Rehabilitation of Orphaned, Sick or Injured Protected Animals by Wildlife Volunteers"



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

# MICROBATS

## BAT CONSERVATION & RESCUE QLD. INC.

.RESCUE.EDUCATION.CONSERVATION.HABITAT

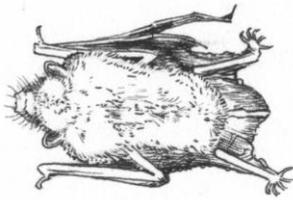


## The Magic of Microbats

Rescue helpline:

0 4 8 8 2 2 8 1 3 4

# WHAT IS A MICROBAT?



Microbats are mammals and belong to the family order called *Microchiroptera* meaning “little hand-wing”. Like humans, microbats are warm-blooded placental animals and are covered with fur and they nourish their young with milk produced by the mothers. Bats share the same senses as we do in smelling, hearing, seeing and feeling, they have the added benefit of flight and an exceptional system of navigation and prey detection called echolocation. Bats are the only mammals capable of sustained flight. Although their body plan is similar to other mammals their body has been modified for flight. Their wings are hands the same as our hands only the bones are elongated and are connected by a membrane which is made up of two layers of skin enclosing elastic fibres, blood vessels and nerves.

## WHAT ARE THEY EATING?

Microbats eat many pest insects including lawn grub moths, weevils, beetles, midges, flying termites, disease carrying mosquitoes, and many more. Some microbats also eat frogs and small fish. A recent survey in a major grain-growing region of Australia, found 100% of a microbats diet were grain weevils. So for crop protection and by helping to limit the use of pesticide, by encouraging microbats we could save our economy as well as our health. Yet we humans are mostly unaware of the benefits of living with bats in our neighbourhood.



*☛ A single little microbat can catch 1,200 mosquito-sized insects in just one hour.*

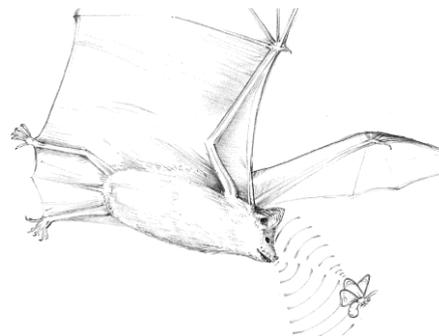
*☛ There are nearly 1,000 kinds of bats in the world, which account for almost 1/4 of all mammal species; they are highly beneficial to our economies and to our health in consuming vast quantities of disease carrying insects and insect pests. Bats are also beneficial by pollinating and dispersing the seeds of plants. Their populations are suffering devastating declines due to habitat loss and a lack of worth. Help us help them!*

*☛ Bats are fascinating animals; it is the community who are “blind to bats”.*

## BLIND AS A BAT!

Contrary to popular belief, bat are not blind and do not become entangled in human hair. Bats use echolocation to help them find food. Microbats make a high-frequency noise from their mouth or nose as they fly; these noises strike objects and bounce back as echoes. The bat can then tell if the object is a tasty insect or a brick wall. Objects as fine as a human hair can be detected in total darkness.

This navigational system allows them to see pictures of sound much the same as our vision allows us to see. It also explains their large and unusual ear and nose shapes.



## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP BATS

**1 . Put up a bat box** in your backyard and monitor it to make sure it is not taken up by wasps or ants.

**2 . Don't use electric insect zappers** they don't just kill the bad insects they also kill the beneficial insects within our environment. They remove the food for local microbats.

**3 . Join Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld** to learn more about bats and how you can help save them.

**4 . Do not touch bats** if you want to help bats do not touch them, like any frightened wild animal it may bite. Bats are not a health risk unless an infected animal bites you. Less than 1/2 of 1% of bats may have ABLV. If bats bite people they have to be killed and be tested for Australian Bat Lyssavirus. Please be humane seek help fast. Do not risk your health or the bats life; call Bat Conservation & Rescue for assistance. Put our number in your phone now.

If you find a microbat during the daytime cover it with a box and call our help line. If you have microbats in your pool umbrella or a rolled up blind, wait till after dark to open it then leave it open till morning. They hopefully have an alternative roost. Best not to do this through the winter months as they may be in hibernation. You could help them by putting up several bat box. Dead trees and hollow limbs are critical habitat for many microbat species but they will also live in rooves of houses, caves, bridges, and culverts and readily take up residence in artificial roosts!

**FOR A PROVEN BAT BOX DESIGN GO TO:**

[www.bats.org.au](http://www.bats.org.au) or  
[http://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au/media\\_library/files/Bat%20Roost%20Box%20V4i.pdf](http://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au/media_library/files/Bat%20Roost%20Box%20V4i.pdf)

For information about [microbats in your house](#) see the information on our website.

[www.bats.org.au](http://www.bats.org.au)