



BAT CHATTER

MARCH 2019

**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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BCRQ SOCIALS

 Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD

 Batzilla the Bat

 Gilbert the Bat

 Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD

 info@bats.org.au

A Word from the President

Hello Everyone!

It has definitely been an interesting six months as a new President!

I am not going to lie when I say I came into this with little knowledge of what I was getting myself into. However, with much guidance from experienced members, our founding President and unwavering help and support from my committee, I feel I am finally comfortable within the position and able to do BCRQ and its members proud.

Over the last five months we have engaged with the public with the batty boat cruises and fundraising, as well as utilising social media to raise much needed funds for crèche. We have filled most of our Team Leader positions with very enthusiastic people who have

some amazing ideas for the future and I can't wait to see these implemented!

We have welcomed 19 new members and held a training day for 9 new active members in late January. It was a lovely day meeting the new members and seeing how enthusiastic they are to help Australia's bats. We would like to welcome these new members and wish them all the best as they head out onto their first rescues!

The Executive Committee has also worked hard to organise our meetings and training for the year and we encourage all members to join us at our training days this year at the RSPCA Wacol (dates below).

Jennifer Sullivan
President

A Change of Season



With the hard slog of Orphan Season almost behind us and following a long hot summer, we are finally enjoying some welcome rain which should hopefully ensure adequate winter flowering for our flying-foxes.

There are still large numbers of Little Red flying-foxes around the traps and following an unseasonably warm autumn forecast there is the very real fear that the Reds may not leave town anytime soon. Little Reds generally leave South East Qld around this time each year to winter and give birth in Far North Qld.

Although the cold winter winds are still a while away, our night time temperatures will soon start to drop and it is important to take a heat source with you on rescues. Black flying-fox babies are still being born (reports of a three-day old Black baby were received this morning!) and it's not beyond the realms of possibility that you may even rescue a Little Red baby in the coming months. It is important that you have a heat source with you at all times during the cooler weather as you just never know what you may encounter.

Vale Dr. Les Hall

Sadly, Dr. Hall passed away last month after a lifetime of service to the environment and his beloved bats.

Dr. Hall's long career included working with the CSIRO as well as being a highly respected lecturer at The University of Qld for 26 years and engaging in many conservation projects before teaming up with photographer Steve Parish during the latter part of his life.

Much of the literature on Australian bats was written or influenced by Dr. Hall and his passing is a great loss to a great many people.

The bats of Australia have lost not only a knowledgeable conservationist but one of their greatest advocates.



Orphan Season Update



As we wind down from yet another busy baby season and with most orphans now either soft released back to the wild or awaiting release, BCRQ Committee wish to sincerely thank all of our orphan carers for their dedication in raising another generation of flying-foxes.

On top of our usual 130 or so orphans, BCRQ members also generously took on and raised 55 of the Townsville orphans.

As is usual for this time of the year, we have a few late orphans in care and these stragglers will be soft released in due course with weather and local flowering conditions being the deciding factor.

Townsville Orphans & Heat Stress Event

The new BCRQ Executive Committee experienced their first crisis as a committee in November last year which involved helping out with the heat event in North QLD. Former Secretary Rachael did an amazing job liaising with carers in Townsville to bring 85 orphans down to Brisbane to assist the Townsville carers with the high volume of orphans coming into care. Following complications with proposed airline travel, BCRQ's President Jennifer, Rachael and Bats Qld's Anja made the decision to drive to Rockhampton to meet Townsville carers halfway.

85 orphans were driven back to Rachael's home during the wee small hours. Thanks to Louella, Vanja, Nikki and Lana who arrived early in the morning to help feed and process the orphans before their distribution to carers in BCRQ, Bats Qld and Bat Rescue.

Special thanks to Rachael for securing a \$4000 grant from the International Fund for Animal Welfare to help pay for the transport, rehabilitation and release of the Townsville orphans. We shared these funds amongst the participating groups.





A Word from the Fundraising & Grants Officer

Grants and Fundraising, January - March 2019

BCRQ has started the year with a number of grant applications and small fundraising initiatives. In addition to funds raised during February's Batty Boat Cruise, radio 4ZZZ FM's Brizzzbane Batcave generously organised a benefit at The Bearded Lady raising funds for BCRQ through donations and merchandise sales. Grill'd Burgers in Carindale accepted BCRQ's application for their 'Local Matters' fundraising program. Charlie's Fruit Market also expressed interest in donating fruit on an ongoing basis to supplement the diet of bats in our care.

BCRQ has three grant applications currently under assessment. Several other grant deadlines are on the horizon, and we are also brainstorming some fundraising ideas that would assist BCRQ in becoming financially sustainable beyond donations and grants.

Please feel free to write grants@bats.org.au with any fundraising ideas or priority items for grant applications.

Alison Höger
Grants Officer & Fundraising Coordinator

Batty Boat Cruise 2018-2019 Season

BCRQ has once again joined up with the Wildlife Preservation Society of QLD at the end of last year for two Batty Boat Cruises and another one in February 2019. During the two cruises last year we raised over \$300 through merchandise sales, donations and orphan adoptions and another \$71 was raised during the cruise in February. We even had a few new members join BCRQ after seeing the work that we do. These late afternoon cruises

along the Brisbane River are a much-enjoyed event filled with educational talks, bats, food and good company. We look forward to the next Batty Boat Cruise season at the end of the year.





Orphan Adoption Program



This year was the first year that BCRQ decided to run a Facebook orphan adoption campaign to raise funds for crèche. The campaign took a lot of time but raised a staggering \$8200. Much thanks to Denise Wade who came up with this amazing idea and for sharing it on Batzilla the Bat which also assisted in us gaining more Facebook followers. Over roughly seven weeks Jennifer, Louella and Neil ran the adoption campaign, electronically adopting out orphans for \$60 each with quite a few people including an extra donation in their payment. Each adopter got to name their orphan and many shared how they chose the name. Most adopters thanked our volunteers for all that they do for the bats.

The campaign also had some touching stories come out of it such as a lady who printed her certificate and hung it up at work to encourage discussion about bats and BCRQ. Another lady adopted 9 bats, one for each of her family. However, really inspiring was the little girl who was gifted an adoption by her mother. We received a photo of the daughter opening her adoption pack on Christmas morning and the joy and amazement on the girl's face was magical. We have since been told that she will be taking the adoption certificate to school so she can tell her class mates all about bats.

Words cannot express the gratitude that we have for our amazing carers who raised the babies and supplied incredibly adorable pictures for the adoption rounds. We would also like to thank Louella who was the public liaison for all of the adoptions and the many hours she gave up to collate payments and answer questions. We would also like to thank her for taking over sending out the adoption packs, and to Neil for taking over preparation of the letters and certificates, when we began to have people adopting faster than we could get the adoption packs out. Neil and Louella did an amazing job working late nights and giving up so much of their free time to raise \$8200 for BCRQ and without them both this would never have been possible.

We notify each orphan adopter when their baby goes to crèche. Here are some of the lovely replies, many of which thank all of us. Enjoy!

Thank you so much for the update and the good news. Thank you for all your hard work.

Thank you so much for the update on Hermione! (Daughter's name) just loves hearing how she's progressing, and actually took Hermione's photo and certificate in for news at school today, always educating her fellow students about our native wildlife.

Thank you for all that you do, and for giving bats like this little baby a chance to grow up, fly free, and give the species a much needed chance at survival. :)

Yeah! Go, Pixie!

Thank you so much for the update and I'm glad she's doing so well!!!! Thank you for all you do for the bats. You all are wonderful.

Thank you so much for the update on Alice, I'm so happy she has graduated to creche. Thank you and the team for the amazing work you do every day.

Beautiful, so happy he is graduating and will finally be back in his natural environment
Thank you for the update.

Glad my Happy has graduated. I'm a proud mother bat ;)

Thank you, and other members of the Bat Rescue and Conservation for being unsung heroes.

THANK YOU!! I'm so happy for my little guy.

That's such wonderful news! Thank you so much for the update. I'll be happy to adopt again if/when the opportunity arises.

Thank you for the updates on (her two granddaughters') bats. I was wondering how they were going. The girls love them. Show them to everyone and talk about them. This I love as they will grow up loving bats like I do.

That is wonderful news. Thank you for your devotion to these sweet creatures.

Thank you so much for the update and wonderful news! I am thrilled that Christmas Miracle will soon be able to be released back into the wild. THANK YOU and all those who work so tirelessly to save the bats. I hope you know that there are many like myself all around the globe who support your work and appreciate all you do! Keep up the great work!

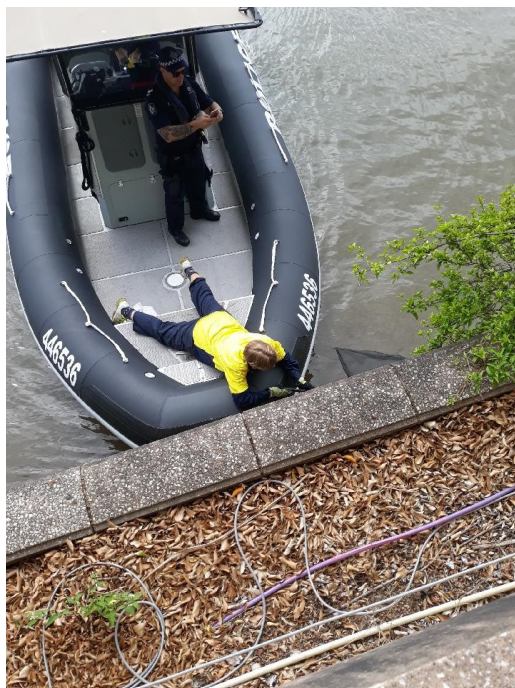
Thank you so much for the update! It means so much to me. ❤️ It is a transitional period in my life as well! I feel Little Rusty and I have so much in common. Flying free and wild and on to a beautiful next chapter! Thank you for taking care of the little dear one, and all the other amazing and special creatures like him ❤️❤️❤️

Louella's Daring Rescue

This unfortunate flying-fox was spotted in the Brisbane River at Southbank by a caring girl who was travelling on the cross-river ferry. The bat was in the water managing to cling to a 3-metre-high vertical concrete wall for a while before dropping into the water, flailing, then climbing up and clinging again, repeating this cycle over and over. I realized I couldn't get him from above and I needed a canoe or similar.

As luck would have it, the Qld Police happened to motor past in an inflatable.

My natural instinct to not make a spectacle was overridden by the thought that this is my chance! The bat may not have the strength to hang on much longer. So, I waved my arms, called out, and those wonderful boys in blue saw me, turned and motored over. There was a ramp nearby, they allowed me onboard, took me to the base of the wall, where I hung out over the front and managed to get the bat, who we named River, into a net.



Volunteer Profile

MATT



Matt has been a member of BCRQ for roughly a year and a half. During his time, he has rescued many bats in a variety of interesting situations, been part of many events where BCRQ gets out and educates the public on bats, and been one of those friendly voices on our rescue line. Sadly, Matt moved to Tasmania at the start of the year but thankfully has not left us. Though he is miles away from us and the bats he remains as one of our amazing rescue phone volunteers.

We hope that one day Matt will return to QLD and our beautiful bats but in the meantime, here are a few questions he has answered for us.

1. Why the interest in bats?

Why not bats? They are tough, fascinating and disarmingly cute creatures. I can't understand what is not to like. They get such a bad rap which is what originally made me want to start working with them. I have gotten so much in return for my work; I have made friends, learnt a great deal and had a lot of fun along the way.

2. How long have you been with BCRQ?

I am somewhat of a newbie still and I have been rescuing for 1.5 years or so. It has been a very busy time and sometimes it surprises me because it feels like I have been doing it for years.

3. What was your best rescue and outcome?

Some of the babies rescued from the Perrin Park colony have been the best outcomes I have had. They are generally in very poor condition by the time they make it into care, but it has been nice to see some of them pull through despite this with the help of our Rehab volunteers.

4. What was your worst rescue?

I don't mind the rescues where an ACTUAL bat is involved. Two black plastic dog poo bags tied together in a knot. Come on... really?

5. What do you spend your time doing when not helping the bats?

I have far too many interests... it is a problem. Fitness and music mainly, however getting punched in the face at martial arts is my most recent passion.

6. What is your dream outcome for bats?

Long cool summers, un-netted trees generously laden with fruit and an underground electrical network.

A Word from the Membership Coordinator

At the last general meeting a vote was called to set a date for an annual membership renewal. The date which was voted on and added to BCRQ's by-laws is the 31st of March.

I would like to remind all current members that they need to renew, pay their fees and supply their current titre levels before the 31st of March if they wish to keep their membership current and remain on the rescue and mailing lists.

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.

Change to Bank Details

BCRQ has recently made some financial changes and now have new bank details. Our new bank details, for donations, membership, merchandise purchases, and anything else are:

Account name: Bat Conservation and Rescue Qld Inc

BSB: 638260

Account Number: 14788101

Important Upcoming Dates

Meetings & Training

Sunday 31st of March 2019 – Membership Renewal Due

Saturday 20th of April 2019 – General Meeting

Sunday 23rd of June 2019 – Basic Training Workshop

Saturday 13th of July – Annual General Meeting

Sunday 22nd of September 2019 – Orphan Training Workshop

Events BCRQ are Attending

Sunday 26th of May 2019 – Dayboro Day

Sunday 26th of May 2019 – LEAF Festival

Sunday 2nd of June 2019 – Green Heart Festival

Sunday 4th of August 2019 – Einbunpin Festival

Wednesday 14th of August 2019 – Caboolture Family Fun Day

End of October (date to be confirmed) – Halloween Fly Out

November to December (dates to be confirmed) – Batty Boat Cruises



All our carers are vaccinated. Please never handle a bat unless you are vaccinated against rabies. **Remember: No Touch, No Risk!**

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