

INTRODUCING THE TASMANIAN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

We are pleased to announce the formation of the *Tasmanian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council* (TWRC).

The Council name is consistent with the titles of other interstate wildlife councils in the hope that a national wildlife council will develop in the future.

Most importantly, the inaugural meeting considered the need to establish the *Tasmanian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council* in order to focus on achieving excellence in welfare for native wildlife during and post rehabilitation, by supporting carers through education, and mentoring everyone involved in wildlife care throughout Tasmania within the resources available. There was unanimous agreement to forming the Council at the meeting from carers representing north, south, east, central and western regions.

The purpose of *The Tasmanian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council* (TWRC) is to conduct a state wide, inclusive wildlife rehabilitation Council for all DPIPWE registered wildlife carers and to become the peak representative organisation for volunteer wildlife care in Tasmania.

We aim to encourage those not registered with DPIPWE as carers to do so in order to make use of the services of the Council. TWRC is considering associate membership for those involved in all aspects of wildlife rehabilitation- so not only carers.

TWRC will act as an independent advisory Council to DPIPWE and relevant Ministers. We will offer representation on behalf of registered rehabilitators in any future ministerial advisory committee if requested.

Through cooperation and networking we will improve wildlife rehabilitation in Tasmania.

We recognise there is a need for training at all levels for wildlife carers, as well as a need to participate in reviewing and developing contemporary standards for husbandry of animals during rehabilitation.

Jenna Mays, Team Leader (Administration and Systems) Wildlife Management Branch has kindly agreed to distribute this introductory newsletter to all those on the registered carers list.

Our email address is TWRCouncil@gmail.com

The *Tasmanian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council* is at its beginning stage and for wildlife rehabilitation to improve in Tasmania, we need your support.

TWRC, being a volunteer organisation, presents challenges in meeting the expectation of its members. All of our voting Council members are active carers so we will be time poor on occasions. DPIPWE has seat on Council but no voting rights to preserve independence of both TWRCouncil and DPIPWE. The DPIPWE representative is a liaison/advisor/consultant and works in a collaborative relationship with the Council.

It is important to note that the TWRCouncil does not represent DPIPWE's position and DPIPWE representation does not equal validation for any position adopted by the TWRC. Both entities are independent but are seeking to work together for greatest benefit.

The TWRC aims to conduct a survey of carers around the State. If you can assist as a volunteer with this please email us.

If you are no longer actively caring, please notify us by email so we can update the existing carer database.

If you are actively caring and have ideas and suggestions to improve our wildlife care please email those items and they will be added to Council's agenda for consideration.

The Council will not have a bureaucratic structure and there will be no presidential functions. There will be specialist portfolios to address areas of need and Portfolio Managers will be asking for your skilled assistance from time to time.

This is your Council and we are here to serve and support you to ensure the best wildlife rehabilitation in Tasmania.

Please work with and support us.

Oma Rodger

Founding member on behalf of TWRC Councillors.