

Help FAWNA care for drought and fire effected wildlife

Hastings Co-op has thrown its support behind FAWNA's new Food4Wildlife project, which provides collection points for locals to access free wildlife feed, as well as donating \$500 to assist FAWNA in caring for sick and fire injured animals.

"The ongoing drought and horrific fires have had a devastating effect on our local community – not just people, but also wildlife, with their habitat being decimated," Chief executive officer Allan Gordon said.

"Given FAWNA is driven by volunteers, so Hastings Co-op is encouraging locals to take advantage of the free wildlife feed bins and assist FAWNA in feeding local wildlife."

FAWNA president Meredith Ryan said that "while other agencies look after people, FAWNA believes the Food4Wildlife project is unique, and the first time anything like this has been attempted on a broad scale."

"There are two different wildlife foods available for collection free of charge – pellets suitable for kangaroos and wallabies and other native animals and a wild bird seed," she said.

The free feed bins are located at:

- Wauchope SUPA IGA
- Mitre 10 and CRT Wauchope
- Kew Rural Store
- Comboyne Rural Store
- Lasiandra Service Station
- Bolwarra Road, Port Macquarie Service Station.

"During the fires, we knew we had to step up and look beyond the needs of the injured and orphaned animals that normally come to our volunteer group, which exceeded 3,900 in the 2018/19 financial year," Mrs Ryan said.

"There has been a public groundswell of concern for the plight of native animals that have suffered even before the fires, with drought conditions altering their habitat and food resources.

"Tracking our incoming telephone calls to our 24-hour rescue line since July 1, 2019, we've seen an almost regular 20% increase in calls over the previous year."

FAWNA is the only all-species wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release group licensed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to operate in the Port Macquarie-Hastings local government area and has been operating for 30 years.

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