



FRIENDS OF BATS NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2024

NSW Forestry Logging

KBCS recently completed a submission for the Independent Forestry Panel with regards to ending native forest logging within NSW State Forests. Loss of habitat remains the primary threat to flying foxes and we urge all members to contact your government representatives, or sign a petition. KBCS member, Nancy Pallin, attended the recent rally in Town Square.



Link between bat death and infant mortality in the US

The Guardian reported recently on a study uncovering a tragic link between the death of bats in the US due to white-nose disease, and mortality in children. In areas where bats were wiped out due to white-nose disease, the farmers were forced to compensate by increasing the use of insecticides, which in turn affected infant mortality. Read the full article [here](#).



Get up close with grey-headed flying-foxes from home!

Tune in to the Wingham Brush Nature Reserve live bat cam, streaming every day from dawn to dusk. Watch the bats roost, socialise, and take off at dusk to forage. Grey-headed flying-foxes are a vulnerable species, crucial for forest regeneration. Help protect them by learning more and sharing this [incredible live stream!](#)

Education Events

Our education bat team had two very successful days at Science in the Scrub (11 August) and Science in the Swamp (18 August). Both these events were very well attended with over 8,000 people passing through the gates on 11 August. Organisers mentioned how impactful it was for visitors who got to meet the flying foxes at the KBCS stand – minds can be changed very quickly once you see a bat up close! The education team hopes to run some equally successful events in Bellingen during November.

KBCS committee

Elected at our AGM in September were Tim Pearson (Chair), Alison Langley (Deputy Chair), Nancy Pallin (Hon. Treasurer), Karen Sherwood (Hon. Secretary), Rosie Dowsett, Artun Ereren, Pierre Vignal and Susan Parrish Smith. Welcome to our new committee members!

Haley Henning has temporarily stepped down from the committee due to a conflict of interest with her role at Ku-ring-gai Council, where she has undertaken 12 months of maternity cover for Chelsea Costello in the role of Natural Areas Officer. We look forward to her return and wish her well in her role.

Harry Leung has stepped down from the committee due to his move to the UK. We sincerely thank Harry for his years of dedication to our website and webmail – he will be missed. If we have any tech-savvy members who would like to assist with maintaining the website, please get in touch!

Bat Conservation Gift Fund News

Donations to Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society since July 1 this year total \$1,205.

We thank members, Mary Warner, Janet Fairlie-Cunninghame, Adam Jacquier-Parr, John Burke, Nancy and Rob Pallin, Jeanette Sinclair, Ron Tanner, Helen Gardner, Jane Gye, Janet Pollock, Bruce Taylor and non-members donating through PayPal, Jamie McKenzie and Robert Bauman.

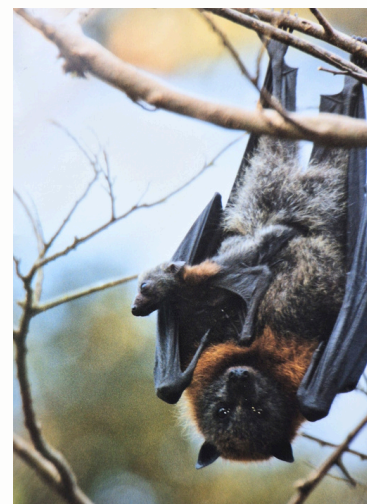
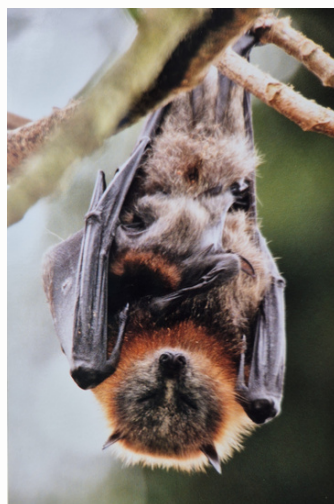
Funds continue to be spent on maintaining the education flying-foxes which are housed at Australian Wildlife Walkabout Park at Calga and are also being used to fund education events – such as the upcoming series of Bellingen events that our education team are running.

Bushcare continues in Ku-ring-gai Flying-fox Reserve

Volunteers Jill, Karen and Nancy continue to meet most Tuesdays. A highlight this month was finding evidence of recent Powerful Owl activity in the reserve, despite the sad find of a dead owl several months ago. A number of owl pellets (undigested/regurgitated parts of the owl's meal) were found amidst droppings right beside our tool store. Haley Henning's Saturday group meets on the first Saturday of each month – the trees planted by this group, a great mixture of native species - are flourishing! Volunteers are welcome, so if you or someone you know is interested in joining us please register [here](#).

“The Adventures of Tina, Nashi and the Fruit Bats” is a new book written by Paula Chilton with informative batty tidbits framed within a children's story. The story illustrates the bats' migration patterns and the benefits they provide through seed distribution. It is a heartwarming story that can be enjoyed by many children and potentially encourage a sympathetic view of a very misunderstood species. Review by Madelyne Smith.

Spring time means pups! The photos below show a mother about to give birth, then feeding her newborn, then the pup at a few weeks of age. A beautiful series captured by photographer Vivien Jones and reprinted with permission.



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