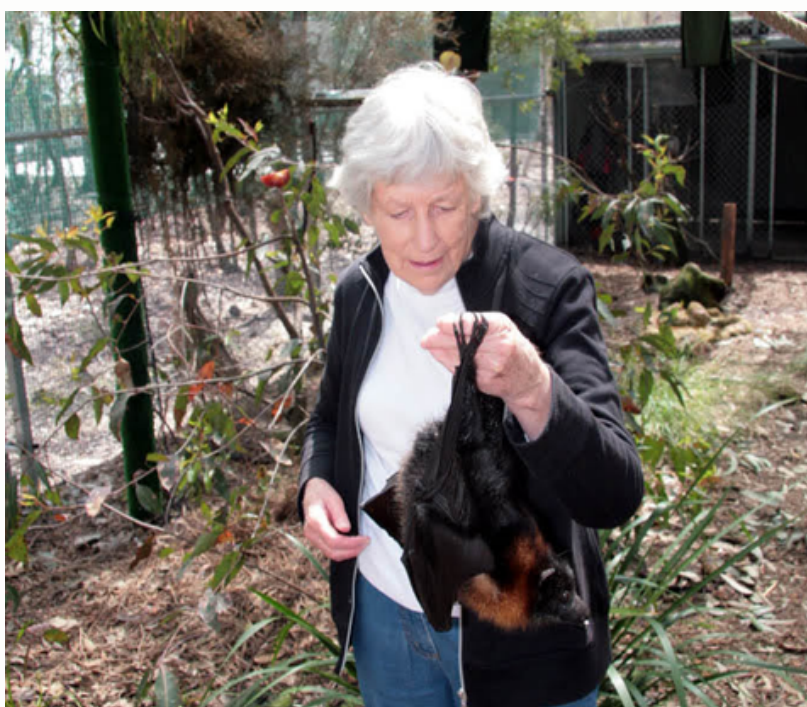




FRIENDS OF BATS NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2025

Vale Marjorie Beck

We remember the dedication and hard work of KBCS member Marjorie Beck, who passed away in January 2025. Marjorie was a tireless champion for flying-foxes and the natural environment. Her dedication to conservation, education, and advocacy made a lasting impact on both wildlife and the community. Through hands-on work, public outreach, and political lobbying, she played a crucial role in protecting flying-foxes and preserving native bushland. Read more [HERE](#) on Marjorie's invaluable contributions and the enduring legacy she leaves behind.



Blue Mountains Bat Night

Now in its 12th year, Blue Mountains Bat Night was held at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre on 15th March 2025 with another fantastic crowd.

Figs and flying-foxes - by Nancy Pallin

Figs are an important food source for flying-foxes in the Sydney region. One of their benefits is that they have a long fruiting season.

Moreton Bay figs grow into huge rainforest trees with massive, buttressed trunks. Their natural distribution is from the Shoalhaven River north to Queensland. They have been widely planted in parks in Sydney. The figs are 20 – 25mm in diameter on a 10 – 20 mm stalk. They ripen throughout the year changing from orange to purple.

Image at right: Moreton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) with one fruit partly eaten, the other not yet ripe.



Port Jack or Rusty Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*) is a native fig tree which often occurs in rocky areas. Its leaves are half the size of those of the Moreton Bay fig and generally more rounded. Young stems and the underside of its leaves are covered with rust-coloured hairs. Its figs are 10–20 mm diameter on a short stalk, 2–5 mm long. They turn from yellow to red and are ripe between January and July.

Image at left: Port Jack or Rusty Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*).

Rest in Peace - Banksi

We are sad to report the passing of Banksi, one of our much-loved education bats (pictured here with licenced handler, Haley Henning). Banksi had been hand reared at the Walkabout Park since she was just one day old, after her mother died in 2012. She was gentle and easy to handle and did a huge amount of important education work in her time. Banksi recently gave birth and her healthy pup is now being raised in care.



Counting Grey-headed Flying-foxes in Ku-ring-gai Flying-fox Reserve Haley Henning - Natural Areas Officer, Ku-ring-gai Council



21 Jan 2025: January count and roost extent mapping was conducted on 21/01/2025, we counted 5,604 bats at the evening flyout. Juveniles were seen and heard calling during the walkthrough. It was windy in the evening and the bats were wheeling around the sky, making it quite a difficult count! Thanks again to Ben for counting at Warandoo Street.

20 Feb 2025: 3,236 bats were counted during the evening flyout. The bats seemed more spread out during the day. I saw a few juveniles still hanging with mums and we were serenaded by the wonderful mating calls of the males during our walkthrough. Thanks Ben, Sue and Jeanna for helping with the counts!



Thank you Donors!

Donations July 2024 – February 2025: Total \$1,535

Members of Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society and other donors we sincerely appreciate your generosity.

These donations enable the Society to provide education opportunities with live flying-foxes, through our socials and via the [sydneybats](http://sydneybats.com.au) website.

Mary Warner, Janet Fairlie-Cuninghame, Jamie Mackenzie, Robert Bauman, Adam Jacquier-Parr, John Burke, Nancy Pallin, Jeanette Sinclair, Shayne and Ron Tanner, Helen Gardner, Jane Gye, Janet Pollock, Bruce Taylor, Harry Burkitt, Ian Kilpatrick

Connect with us on social media:

