



MEDIA RELEASE

Alice Springs Wildcare Gets Fishy

Things have been very fishy for Wildcare Inc Alice Springs over the past few weeks, with some unusual animals requiring help.

Parks and Wildlife Service wildlife management unit officer Jon DeLaine said several different waterbirds have entered care in the past few months, including a Pelican, Black Cormorant and a whole family of Grey Teal ducklings.

“The sudden influx of waterbirds has sent Wildcare Inc Alice Springs members scurrying for children’s wading pools and suitable fish to meet the aquatic needs of the birds,” Mr DeLaine said.

“The community wildlife rescue group has even received a Black-necked Stork/Jabiru from Haasts Bluff in the past week.

Mr DeLaine said when he first received the call from Wildcare Inc Alice Springs he had to ask them several times if the bird was actually a Jabiru.

“It is really unusual for these birds to be around the arid zone,” he said.

“There are only a handful of records of Black-necked Storks in the desert regions from the past century, so this bird was very lucky to find help from Wildcare Inc Alice Springs.

“The young Black-necked Stork has had an incredible journey arriving exhausted at Haasts Bluff exhausted from who knows where.

“It was then driven in a car to Alice Springs where it received some much needed food and attention from Wildcare Inc Alice Springs before it was put on a plane and flown to Territory Wildlife Park in Darwin.

“The bird will be raised at the TWP and either join the breeding program or be released into suitable habitat.

Mr DeLaine said it has been nearly impossible to supply enough suitable fish for the hungry waterbirds, especially when each bird can eat over a 1kg of fish per day.

“Some birds are really fussy with there fish, which makes it really hard for our Wildcare members who have to try to find the right fish from the limited supplies in Alice Springs,” he said.

“We don’t know why so many waterbirds have been received recently; however the continuing dry conditions may be impacting on suitable food supplies for the birds.

“Wildcare Inc Alice Springs is a community group that works closely with the Parks and Wildlife Service to rescue and care for native wildlife.

“New members are always welcomed and full training is provided.”

Anyone that finds a sick, injured or orphaned native animal is encouraged to contact Wildcare Inc Alice Springs on 0419 22 11 28.

Ends

**Media Note – For more details please contact Jon DeLaine 08 8951 8283.
Photos available on request.**

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