

Cairns Flying-fox Advisory Committee



How it Started

- A Flying-fox Summit April 2015 was held in Cairns with guests with specialised knowledge and experience with relocation of flying-foxes to discuss “What outcomes do we need”.
- Outcome: To form a **Flying-fox Advisory Committee (FFAC)** that:
 - actions immediate concerns, (customer complaints and matrix)
 - establishes an education and awareness program to the public and,
 - collaborates with key stakeholders.



Why FFAC

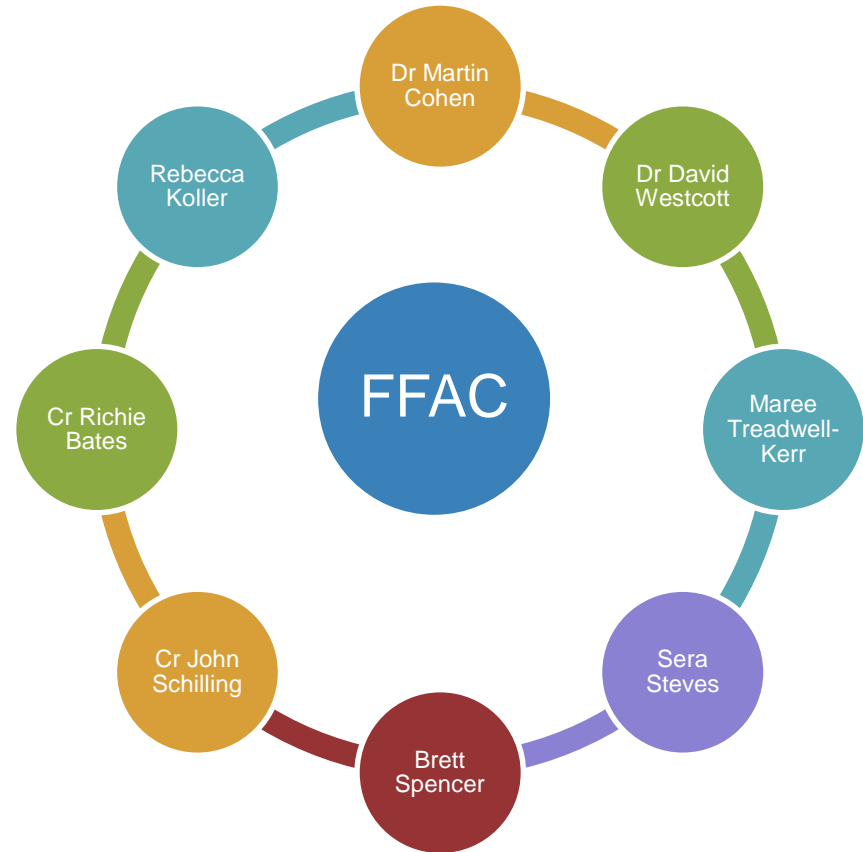
- Provide an independent source of information.
- Develop a two way understanding.
- To advise Council on educational and awareness strategies.
- Create a learning forum.



The FFAC Team

Membership of the FFAC is voluntary in capacity and no reward or remuneration is permissible.

- Industry experts
- Community reps
- Wildlife reps
- Councilors
- Council Officer



There have been 23 FFAC meetings over 3 years.

- Education Activities
- Awareness Activities
- The status of the SFF
- Is it working?



**What has the FFAC
been doing?**

FFAC Highlights

2015

Opening meeting 1st
October 2015

Signage at the Library

Development of
communication and
marketing strategies



This is a nursery colony of **Spectacled Flying-Foxes** a vulnerable species under our laws.

Birthing season has started and babies can fall to the ground.

If you see a baby or adult on the ground, on a fence, or in a bush

PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH IT!

There are volunteers ready to help so please phone one of these numbers:

FNQ Wildlife Rescue: 4053 4467

Wildlife Care and Rescue: 4036 1984

Bat Reach: 4093 8858 or 0459 942 519

The volunteers in these groups can be busy so, if you reach an answering service, please leave a detailed message with the day and time you called and location of the bat.

Thanks for caring about our wildlife

If anyone is bitten or scratched by a flying-fox refer to the "If bitten or scratched by a bat" section at the following link, on action required: www.nhp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/viruses.html

FFAC Highlights

2016

Bats Chats begin at
the City Library

Brand design finalised
with marketing
materials

Grant for Cairns Bat
Festival



Community and flying-foxes

All you need to know about your home
and family around flying-foxes [MORE](#)



Science and Flying-foxes

Get the bat facts. [MORE](#)



Flying-fox Advisory Committee

Meet the team providing
recommendations and advice on
Council's flying-fox education and
awareness strategy. [MORE](#)



Flying-fox Management strategy

Get the how and why on Council's
management strategy [MORE](#)



Billboard



FFAC Highlights

2017

Basic Bat Care

Training course
(with Dr Tania Bishop)

Bid to host National Forum

Bat Carer's are
overloaded need
strategy



The poster for the Cairns Bat Festival 2017 features a close-up of a bat's face at the top. The text 'FLYING FOXES living under one sky' is in the top right. Below the bat image, it says 'JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT ALL TYPES OF BATS, DETECT FOR MICROBATS AND WATCH THE FLYING FOXES FLY OUT OVER TRINITY INLET'. The main title 'CAIRNS BAT FESTIVAL' is in large yellow letters with a bat icon. Below that, it says 'SALT HOUSE GARDEN, MARINA POINT' and 'SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2017 | 3.30PM TO 7.00PM'. A 'FREE EVENT' banner is on the left. A grid of activities includes: Bat Chats, Eco Stalls, Bat Expert Talks, Raffle Prizes, T-shirt Printing, Live Music by Lunar, Zoo To You, BBQ, Face Painter, Kids Crafts, Glitter Bat Tattoos, and Fly-out at Sunset. At the bottom, it lists presentations: BAT TRAILS, SPECTACLED FLYING-FOXES, BAT CONSERVATION. Logos for Cairns Regional Council, Salt House, and Facebook are at the bottom.

There were in excess of 500 orphaned bats needing care in the 2017 breeding.

Bat Carer's need support in future years if this situation occurs again.

Bat fact || Babies:

If you see a baby or adult bat on the ground, on a fence or in a bush, **please do not touch** it.

There are qualified volunteers ready to help. Please phone 4053 4467 and advise the time of day, location of the bat and your return contact details.

Get more bat facts at www.cairns.qld.gov.au/bats



FFAC 2018 and the Future



Bat Carer Support

Release Enclosure

What is Likely to
Occur?

How do we
respond?



**The Dynamics are about to
change!**

Carer Support

Resource and Performance Agreement for Bat Carer's Flying-fox initiated to support the bat carer's of Cairns through the 2018-2019 birthing season.

Funding Milestones		Timeline
1	Provision of fruit and other dietary items for flying-foxes	Fruit is required once baby bats are weaned from formula at 3 months. Purchase of fruit will occur between December and June
2	Carer's Training	During the Financial year
3	Medical supplies and Veterinary services	Start of September 2018 and ongoing depending on needs of the baby bats
4	Humidity crib	Purchase of humidity crib in September 2018
5	Formula and other supplies	Start of September 2018 and ongoing depending on needs of the baby bats



Carer Support

Resource and Performance Agreement for Bat Carer's Flying-fox initiated to support the bat carer's of Cairns through the 2018-2019 birthing season.

Likely to Occur:

Extra resources for Bat Carer's,
Reduce the stress the on Bat Carer's and rehabilitate more orpahns,
Attract new bat carer's and provide adequate training.

Response:

On-going assessment throughout the breeding season,
Review of the resource and performance agreement at the end of the financial year.

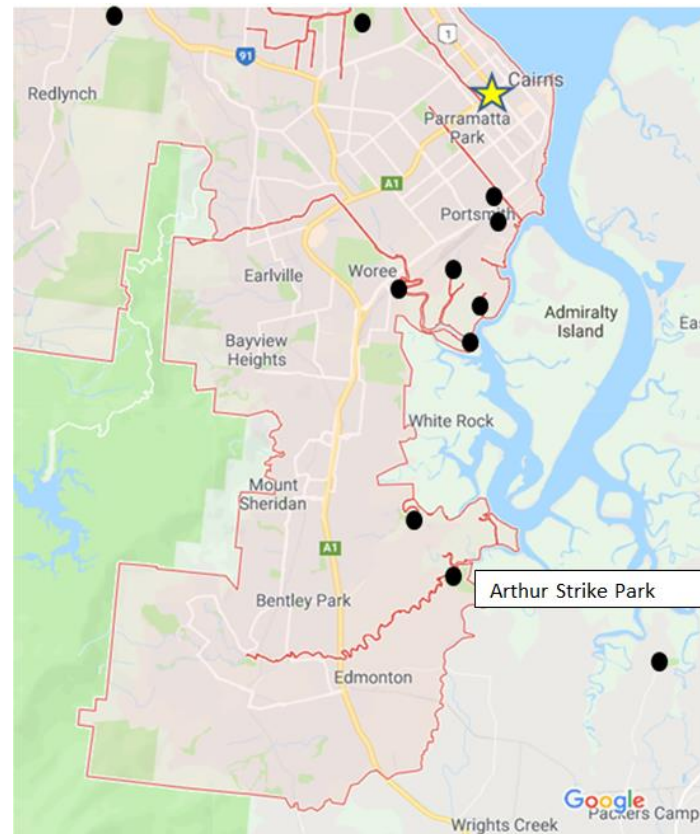


Release Enclosure

A total of twelve (12) sites were assessed in southern Cairns.

Selection Criteria

- Located south of the City Library
- Council land
- Non-residential area
- Secure entry already exists
- Easy access and parking for bat carers
- Ease of construction
- Flood free zone
- Possible water connection
- Suitable canopy
- Away from barbed wire and high voltage high voltage power lines
- Proximity to other known roosts
- Proximity to fresh and salt water



Release Enclosure

Arthur Strike Conservation Park

Away from hazards (barbed wire and high voltage power lines).

Close to fresh and salt water.

Close to known or historical roosts.

Suitable canopy.

Water connection.

Fully secure from the public.

Suitable for revegetation.



Release Enclosure

Speewah Flying-fox release enclosure

Cairns enclosure will be based on this design.

Public access not permitted.

Unvaccinated people are prohibited to enter the enclosure.

Signage required to reduce trespassing.

Regular maintenance of site by Council.



Release Enclosure

Likely to Occur:

Cairns Bat Carers can now take care of the orphans until fly-out.

Response:

On-going assessment throughout the breeding season.

Review of the operations and ask for recommendations from Bat Carer's.



Next Steps

- Construction of the Cairns Release Enclosure.
- Maintain FFAC in current role.
- Monitoring of Orphan Flying-foxes for the 2018-2019 breeding season.
- Revegetation of Arthur Strike Park in consultation with Bats and Trees Society of Cairns.
- Deterrent program of the City Library roost in consultation with ecological experts.
- Continuous improvement to management of flying-fox species in an urban environment.

Questions?

FLYING FOXES

living under one sky



Cairns Regional
COUNCIL