The largest bushfire in Australian History.
Millions are dead. There is nothing for surviving animals to eat, no insects, no grass, no water. We had to act fast.

ARC is a business unit and special / separate fund of the Mini Kitty Commune. A registered large charity in Australia with DGR / ACNC Status.
What was done

Organisation support listings

680 Drop Hubs supplying hundreds of rescuers

20000+ rescue makers actively engaged

Emergency response registration/action

Our own donations portals

Hundreds of safehouses

Volume capacity + reputation

Organisation support listings

Our response – stand up the largest wildlife food and emergency support project ever

Partnered with #Petbarnfoundation
Total Spend so far - $1.25m (Feb 2020) 4 months

National spend mix

Breakdown Feb 20
- Environmentals -3653.37
- Hardware -10761.53
- Cages -5046.95
- Trail Cameras -10120
- Compute -3814.4
- Containers -91102
- Cash -245209.95
- Fabric -1869.56
- Food -516469.88
- IBC's -15400
- Incubators -58406.95
- JetFuel -5489
- Koala Poles -2000
- Marketing -5650
- Other -12198.14
- Pump Repairs -4180
- Storage -8712.8
- Trailers -18750
- Transport -19170.87
- Medical/Vet -23221.45
- Whitegoods -2934

- Hundreds of emergency response projects
- 180 Tonne of Macropod Pellets (Est)
- Tens of thousands of bales of hay
- 15 Storage sheds
- 680 Drop off hubs
- Several site rebuilds
- Thousands of transporting runs, visits, volunteer hours, supporting calls, messages
- 13 national emergency response teams (5 in NSW)
- Water, Food, Infrastructure . . Sometimes just a phone call, ANYTHING to help rescuers
- Over $300k in direct cash to rescuers in need

No paid ARC staff, minimal red tape. We can do more.
Hundreds of Tonnes of Macropod Pellets. Hundreds

- In November there was literally zero stock of Pellets in Australia. Riverina feed sold us their last 20 pallets. So we had to go get them made.
- Working with Furneys Feeds we secured over 100 Tonne of Macropod Pellets
- Working with Australian Wildlife, Wombaroo and many other suppliers we secured double that in local drops
- These are delivered to Kangaroo feeders all through the zones from QLD to Vic/SA
- Our total food cost is in $516k (at 15/2)
Tens of thousands of bales of hay

- Since day one the teams have been moving semi loads of hay into fire impacted zones
- Hay is a good multi species food & different types are needed/sourced
- Each truck can be $10k – 20k
- Hay has been purchased locally from local vendors to keep money in the local economy. EG, Kangaroo Island from local fodder shops etc
- We don’t discriminate. Though we are aiming at supporting wildlife we have also supported equine and hobby farms that don’t have access to government support.
The ARC Craft Guild. **The largest Animal Craft makers group in the world.** 250 Thousand members stood up immediately to make thousands of bat wraps, joey pouches, hanging pouches, mittens and non stop amount of product.

Immediately replicated globally with 25+ Craft Guilds set up internationally shipping thousands of packages to rescuers in Australia.

A team of 16 Moderators doing 24/7 shifts, automated supply chain, logged deliveries, serious amounts of fabric, thousands of rescuers served and supported.

**Craft Guild raised over $200000 directly and GAVE IT TO RESCUERS.**
Thousands of Feeding, Housing and McGyver items

The ARC McGyver Guild. 5000 handymen and women making possum boxes, feeding tubes, water feeders, glider housing.

Fixing sheds, fixing cages, building fences. Getting things done with creative ideas.
Hundreds of IBC Feeding Systems created/manned

- Huge areas of drought and fire impacted land have no way of maintaining water and feed areas so animals can’t be released/die
- Small water feeders need a lot of maintenance and visits. Working with NPWS, experienced designers and volunteer feeders we developed several Intermediate Bulk Container (IBC) delivered water systems
- Each IBC holds 1000 Litres of water and can be refilled by mobile pump from a trailer IBC.
- Further designs for Solar Pump and catchments lids are in development. UPDATE we are buying Solar Pumps now!
- All are refilled by volunteers in key areas
44 ICU Humidicrib/Incubators have been given to rescuers

- Intensive Care in a box. A humidicrib or “Incubator” is one of the most useful pieces of rescue infrastructure. All animal types use it, and every rescuer should have one.
- We can regulate humidity and temperature, Humidification, Nebulization, Double air compressor, Negative-ion Generation, ICU Illumination Function.
- We went big. Big units capable of fitting bat groups, large animals. Volume is better.
- 44 units have so far been given to rescuers all through the firezones including major organisations.
- Cost per unit $2100 to $2900 depending on model.
This is what urgent accommodation looks like

- In critical cases where sanctuaries are destroyed we move in these pre-fab units
- Each unit can be trucked in and kitted out quickly with Ikea fit out
- Each costs $10k-$12k and is ordered pre-fab plus about $2k furnishing
- Extra costs - water tank, additional plumbing, continuous hot water, sewage tank
- The team fit out are all volunteers and local supporters helping to rebuild.
- Total, about $20k per install with delivery/internals etc

This keeps a sanctuary running whilst they rebuild
Two Thumbs Koala Sanctuary – Air Crash disaster response

An absolute tragedy

- Two Thumbs Wildlife Sanctuary was one of the most important sanctuaries in the area, a safe haven for rescued wildlife in Southern NSW
- Tragically, on Jan 21st a C130 Hercules doing water bombing to save the sanctuary and surrounding areas, crashed near the sanctuary, resulting in the loss of three brave men. Sadly, the sanctuary, only just recovering from a previous fire, was wiped out. These animal's home, and their lives, were lost, along with the home of their dedicated protector, James.

A large-scale response

- Accom/treatment room (portable)
- A large fully contained “Container” home
- Several large enclosures
- Fencing and equipment
- Water Tanks and Fire equipment
- Portable shower, all the medicals replaced, get things moving
- Total cost $98,000 plus fit out and vollies time
Alphadog (Marcus Fillinger) – Blackwalker CnR

The hardest job in rescue

Blackwalking involves going into the burn zone, assessing and managing injured animals.

- Animals with serious fatal wounds but are still alive
- Animals in pain and suffering beyond imagination
- Animals that need help, either way.

This is the hardest job in rescue. Marcus Fillinger is qualified and level headed. He sees suffering beyond belief and acts. He is a recognised expert in tranquilliser firearms/remote capture/tranquilliser firearms instruction. He assesses, rescue, euths or take other action. Currently in military service, expert. Hard work.

Our support - equipment

- $10000 in coverage of Dart and Euth equipment, consumables
- Coverage of costs (Whilst doing this he can't earn a living)
- $5000 for acquisition of a trail vehicle (Marcus is covering huge distances on foot) and a trailer for contain, feed and transport.
- Constant, constant ground support, awareness and product supply. Coordination with local teams and shelters

Jan 2020 – South NSW

Cobargo Wildlife Sanctuary – completely fire destroyed

Cobargo NSW was flattened. Completely decimated by the fires. At Cobargo Sanctuary over 250 Eastern Greys on the property burned or died from smoke inhalation. They have counted 18 survivors. The family are living in tents. They have zero infrastructure and very little beyond what they have been donated. We will help

Our response - rebuild

- 2 x Accom/Treatment rooms so they aren’t living in tents
- A lot of hay and food and will continue to back and source this
- Bulldozer hire to clear the land and prepare for resettling
- Furnishings for accommodation. They have no bed, no anything
- A washing machine and Fridge
- Fencing and Containment Materials to start to rebuild the sanctuary
- Total cost around $35k
Hay to Warrumbungle – Heat/Drought is killing everything

Wildlife in Warrumbungle Nat. Park - Australia are dying. 2013 bush fire and many years of zero rain has resulted in a mass extinction of local wildlife. The smell of dead animals is everywhere, the rescuers in the area cannot release animals as they will die. **Everything is dying**

*There is nothing to eat. There is nothing to drink. There is no one interested in helping*

Response. A vast McGyver water + feed program

The most creative project we can imagine, using the skills of local jack of all trades, rangers and NPWS workers, we will fund home grown water and food stations created at site, backed by a team of local volunteers to feed, water and maintain these facilities, long term.

- 100+ 1000l Water Feed stations (Shuttles) – IBCs McGyvered to significant feed pods
- 100 + of regional drop tanks for smaller local feeding zones
- 40+ Feed Zone Troughs and food dispense areas monitored and managed by teams
- 15 Tonne (so far) of Macropod and Wildlife food
- A large and well supported group of local volunteers
- Vehicle support, plumbing and tapping support.
- Tools and materials
Mass Bat Death – Rescue Facility in WRQ

They are boiling alive

Our response – Flight Creches

- Wildlife Rescue Queensland took in hundreds of bats from NSW
- TRC built the infrastructure to house these, with a cleared zone, 2 concrete slabs and creche cages installed
- These will double as flight cages to assist large wild birds also all year round
- We have also provided much needed cash, humidicrib and other infrastructure to support WRQ
- Total Cost $45000

As the heat and fires in NSW continue, the bats in NSW continued to die, & many orphans suffering starvation & dehydration were taken to QLD in an attempt to help stabilise the population.

As the influx grows, safe places are required for them the learn how to ‘bat’. Once they are out of the wraps & learn to fly, they need to go to strengthen their bodies ready for release.
Evacuations are very hard

- When the fires hit, many organisations were caught without the essential infrastructure to evacuate their animals.
- Many lacked evac planning and facilities to remove animals swiftly from the shelter, in some instances abandoning animals to be released by Fire and Rescue from cages.
- Proof showed, those who were prepared evacuated swiftly saving countless lives.

Response – Dual Purpose Evac trailers

- Working with RFS and leading rescuers, NSW Bull Terrier selected ideal trailer designs for evac and re-use.
- Partnering with Sydney Dingo for best practice and reuse after the astonishing 3 evacuations of nearly 80 Animals at SFDR in the NSW Fire season.
- A shared resource has been established by NSW Bull Terrier Rescue and registered with local groups for assist and support.
Extreme Heat – Bat Relocation – WINC & Wildlife A.R.C

The bats can’t recover to fly

- As the heat and fires in NSW continue, the bats in NSW continued to die, & many orphans suffering starvation & dehydration were taken to QLD in an attempt to help stabilise the population.
- As the influx grows, safe places are required for them the learn how to ‘bat’. Once they are out of the wraps & learn to fly, they need to go to strengthen their bodies ready for release.

Our response – Flight Creches

- WINC and Wildlife ARC has some of the most experienced bat people and needed a bat creche upgrade
- TRC built the infrastructure to house these, with a cleared zone, concrete slabs and creche cage installed by WINC (awesome team who can make their own!)
- These will double as flight cages to assist large wild birds also all year round
- Total Cost $20000 . .but there will be more (see Batworld)

The Rescue

WINC - HUGE BAT FLIGHT CRECHE FUNDED!
WILDLIFE IN NEED OF CARE - HUNTER REGION

The Rescue Collective
The state of [these wallabies] is like skin and bone, and within a couple of days you’ll just find them dead from starvation,

The impact of climate goes far beyond just fires. The dual effect of drought and the high cost of feed meant that a large rescuer in Townsville was struggling with a mass starvation event.

- A large group of Kangaroos stuck in doughty area in Townsville, no water, no food and no grass. They had nothing to eat. We are going to feed them
- High cost of feed, significant issues with supply and medical.

Lets move them to safety

Working with Australia Zoo, Wildlife Rescue QLD and MachJet, the Rescue Collective team moved a plane full of vulnerable and sick joeys to Australia Zoo
Sydney Dingo Rescue – 3 Football field sized enclosures

The task gets bigger every year

Dingoes are an important part of Australia’s ecology.

Australia’s leading Dingo Sanctuary, SFDR was evacuated 3 times during the Fires and has a very well managed emergency plan. They also scaled out and helped many local organisations with fire and evac, food and support, IBCs and transport

A bigger facility saves lives

The combination of years of drought and now some of the worst fires on record mean that dingoes are increasingly coming into contact with humans. This means more orphans and injured dingoes in need of help than ever before.

Just like Kangaroos, SFDR’s work is shifting to not just entail the rescue and rehoming of ex-pet dingoes but the long term care of orphaned and injured wild dingoes; these dingoes need more space and are in care for longer periods of time.

Total investment $36,561
Mallacoota VIC – Tonnage of Water and Hay

Decimated by the fires

Mallacoota was completely destroyed by the fires of 2019-2020. Images of the blood red skies and children huddled on boats became the international symbol of the fire crisis here in Australia. With no food or water, they will need a continuous supply of these items to keep the wildlife alive.

Vital Food and Water

This mission looked like:
- 22 pallets of bottled water
- 20 huge bales of hay
- Collaboration of Coles and Safeways in Melbourne via the East Gippsland Superhub.
- Volunteers working day and night to get these items from A to B, to the animals and folks who need it the most.
- This is the first of many water and hay drops to Mallacoota to ensure the survival of the ecosystems there
### Animals Waiting Days for New Homes

Bendigo Animal Welfare and Community services does the hard yards of taking in surrendered and abandoned animals, provides them with the necessary vet work and socialization and adopts them out into the community. These animals can wait weeks and months for their new families, but Bendigo doesn’t give up on them.

A sanctuary and a shelter for any animal in the area, Bendigo spends $$ to make sure everyone is fed and healthy.

### Vital Food and Water

Petbarn foundation and ARC came together to relieve the financial stress of Bendigo Animal Welfare's work so that they can focus on getting animals their new homes. With the donation of two huge pallets of animal feed for both their domestic and farm animals, Bendigo can breathe a little easier.

Total investment $xx

---

SHOUT out to Petbarn #Petbarnfoundation and Animal Rescue Cooperative for a donation of two pallets of animal feed delivered to BAWCS today. Donations of feed help to take the financial pressure off operating our Shelter and Sanctuary so we are very appreciative. 👍🙏

BAWCS 'caring with compassion'
As the weather gets colder, the Tasmanian Animal Rescue, Rehabilitation and Education Services work every minute to rescue and protect the abandoned and injured orphaned wildlife. One of the most vital pieces of equipment is a humidicrib. A lifesaving machine.

When ARC heard of the vital work that Tasmanian Animal Rescue was doing and their need for a humidicrib they jumped to action. Alongside the one they made themselves, they now have a brand new crib to help increase the amount of critical care joeys they can take in and save. Alongside that, a $10,000 donation was made to continue to support this incredible group.

Saving lives is what ARC is here for.

Total investment $10,000
Fighting Fires on All Fronts

Working to educate, foster and save animals, the sanctuary takes in anyone and anything needing a place to call home. When the fires hit, the couple who run the sanctuary, Mick and Tracey fought day and night to protect their sanctuary and other local grounds. The heroes they are, the two controlled fire after fire, saving hundreds of animals and local groups.

ARCCG Donation

The Animal Rescue Craft Guild saw day and night the sacrifice that Tracey and Mick made to protect their sanctuary and others. Anything they could give, they did. Their pure selflessness and the long road ahead of recovery and rebuilding resulted in a donation from ARCG of $5,000. The sanctuary will use this much needed donation to continue providing shelter and safety to both animals and young children.

Total investment $5,000
Never saying no to a dog without a home, ROAR has taken in hundreds of orphaned domestics over this fire and heat season. Underfunded and stretched to the limits, they put a desperate call out as they couldn’t continue with the little funding they had. Taking in animals across West NSW, in an area that previously had a 100% euthanasia rate.

- The team of ROAR do one of the hardest jobs there in rescue, especially in a tough regional rescue zone.
- Donation of $10,000 made by the Animal Rescue Craft Guild will help them continue their vital work to help lower the euthanasia rate and find these animals new homes.
Never The projects keep coming out of WA as the area is heavily impacted by drought and fire... and has been much neglected over the last few months. Becky Wagstaff and her husband Ryan are rehabilitators, Reptile Relocators and Joey foster parents.

Rehabilitating Orphaned Joeys

Continuing the Work of 24/7 Care

Working with BIOLAC, TRC and ARC, we have provided a new Aviary/Enclosure plus a large amount of BIOLAC food to continue to support and keep the vital work that Becky and her husband do to protect and rehabilitate animals. We have also added funds to the stock and feed account to keep the machine going.
The Many Victims of Violence

Hundreds of folks and their pets are in danger from domestic violence every day. If there is a pet involved it may be more difficult to flee or the pet is in significant risk of harm. Paws and Recover help organise foster care for folks fleeing violence, facing homelessness or hospitalization.

No Pet Left Behind

ARC has fostered a Domestic Violence Support Program, creating pet packs for any animal victims of violence. With toys, collars, treats, bowls and soft beds, these packs are free and available for any pet coming into care or being reunited with.
Hundreds of Animals Needing Food

With the charred ground, there is no food for all the wildlife to eat. Birds, kangaroos, possums, emus etc. are starving and need constant support to keep them alive. The sanctuaries are stretched to their limits.

Food for All

The Canberra ARC team have been working hard this weekend (7-8th March), to supply food to:
- Native Animal Rescue Group
- Billie Dean Deep Peace Trust
- Possumwood
- Peanuts Wellbeing Sanctuary
- Wombat Stomp Wildlife
- Wildlife Coordinator in Hill Top
Blue is the 18 month old son of a family of stray who were trapped last year, after being found in a backyard. The family were all emaciated and extremely ill with the flu. They had nowhere else to go so Steff from Little Miracles Animal Rescue offered to take them all.

Blue suffers from both a congenital heart condition and chronic stomatitis due to being a carrier of the virus that causes cat flu. Resistant to antibiotics the last change to save his life was to remove the majority of his teeth.

Steff needed help to cover the cost of the surgery that would help save Blue’s life so ARC stepped in to help cover the costs.

The photo on the right is of Blue, resting after his surgery.

Total Investment: 1.4k
Feeding Orphaned Wildlife: Amaris Wildlife Sanctuary

Amaris Wildlife Sanctuary in WA, do the hard yards of caring for orphaned marsupials and other wildlife. With many animals coming into care, the sanctuary were starting to feel the pressure with rising food and enclosure costs.

Working Round the Clock

It has been a lot of work to get Amaris up and running and there are 8 joeys on soft release, 6 joeys in care, 1 unreleasable critically endangered ring tail possum and a dozen or so hungry wild roos that come in day and night to check out the new restaurant in town. The support and grants have encouraged me to continue. The words of support and encouragement from others have lifted me.

On the left is Caree one of my soft release girls who hung her arm on a babrb wire fence. Serious injuries. On the right is Tappy and in her pouch is Amaris's first baby, I am going to be a Grand Mummaroo

Paying for Food

ARC could see the work these folks were doing and made a donation of $5,000 to the sanctuary to help cover costs of milk and food.

This money helps relieve the burden off the sanctuary and ensures they can continue doing the work they are doing in such a rural area.
LnLz Wildlife Rescue

Working Round the Clock

ARC could see the work these folks were doing and made a donation of $5,000 to the sanctuary to help cover costs of milk and food.

This money helps relieve the burden off the sanctuary and ensures they can continue doing the work they are doing in such a rural area.

From the Group

"We love that unlike other charity organizations, you do what you do for the purpose of assisting those in need (the animals), and not the ego and politics! As volunteers, we know and appreciate all the work that goes into your passion - along with the heartbreak and frustration - you still keep going.

So on behalf of hubby and myself. THANK YOU for giving a damn, and ensuring the wheels keep turning to assist the voiceless sentient beings of this beautiful land xxxx"
Northern Valleys is a bushfire effected organisation in WA. They have a substantial number of animals in care and also work to support others in rescue in the area. They are hands on, hard work, working round the clock to care for animals.

Food Keeps Animals Alive

Through the WIRES program, ARC and The Rescue Collective have made a donation of ten thousand dollars in food support paid directly to the vendor (Brigadoon Produce) to support the work of Northern Valley.

This takes the financial burden of Northern Valleys and allows them to continue to care for animals and do the incredible work they do in helping other individual carers and rescues.
On behalf of many of our local Fauna, and we at Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, our heartfelt thanks go to you for your generous donation, and for your care. Your kindness and concern, through your donation, will support many of our local wildlife in their recent struggles with drought and bushfires.

The photos shows the first of 2 transportable release aviaries we are getting built using the donations we have received. They will be used for the release of birds and possums.

Northern Rivers Wildlife have been stretched to the limits, working overtime to protect and rehabilitate victims of the Australia Bushfire Crisis. They have rescued hundreds of animals from birds to bat to macropods to possums.

Seeing the vital work they did, ARC stepped in to make $10,000 donation so that they could build new pre-release enclosures.
Happy Beings Wildlife Sanctuary: Enclosure Build

With Winter coming quickly and their desperate need for a better enclosure, ARC donated $5,000 to cover the cost of the enclosure. The new enclosure would allow them to take in more joeys during the winter time, allow them to properly landscape and build shelter within the enclosure to mimic the joey's natural habitat. The first grant they have ever received, it has been instantly put to use.

A Second Chance at Life

The Happy Beings Sanctuary in the Margaret River region in WA, like many other shelters were overwhelmed with the orphans of the bush fire crisis and were stretched to their limits with intakes of joeys, pigs, galahs and more.

It wasn't their lack of experience that was making it difficult, it was the lack of infrastructure they needed to take on so many animals.
We can do this all day, every day, until we can’t. We are building systems, funding, training and processes to *change Animal Rescue for the good of all.*

Donate here

ARC is a business unit and special / separate fund of the Mini Kitty Commune. A registered large charity in Australia with DGR / ACNC Status

For more information on ARC please contact derek@mkc.org.au
Contacts and Links

Core team

- Alli Cairns – Alli@mkc.org.au
- Nicole Blums - nicole@therescuecollective.com
- Derek Knox – derek@mkc.org.au

Logistics/Shed + assessing

- Rachel Sharples – Brisbane Lead Team
- Carol Snell - Toowoomba
- Jen Barbour/Lori Graff – Sydney Lead Team
- Debbie Simms – Sydney West
- Rhonda Porter – Coffs Harbour
- Sue Brookhouse – Coona/Warrumbungle
- Marg Robson – Hay/Griffith
- Sally Bourke – Hunter CC + North Coast
- Tracey Western – Taree/Port Mac
- Tamara Venables – Lithgow Gospers Blue Mnts
- Alli Cairns – Canberra/Snowys Lead Team
- Sharon – Shoalhaven hub
- Joey Smith – Vic Lead Team (Stratford Hub)
- Louise Black – Melbourne Clayton
- Jo Balderoff – South Australia
- Nyree Cullen – Kangaroo Island
- Amanda Milligan – Far North QLD
- Lesley Ikin/Trish Bone – Tasmania Lead Team

*Yellow is a coordination point for microhubs

Legal Governance & Accounts

- Suzanne Clarke/Claire Valtees – Legal
- Nyree Kullen – Procurement/Quartermaster
- Jo Bryant – Bookkeeper
- Alison Rowland – Invoice Reconciliation
- David Fearnley – Auditor
- Donna Nelson/Tiffany Couch – MKC ARC
- Stazia Kim – Accounting Oversight

Guilds

- Joni Freeman/Avalon Llewellyn - Craft Guild
- Sally Bourke – McGyver (Makers) Guild
- Jacob Int Veld – Water (Makers) Guild

Regional links

- Dubbo Warrumbungle
- Shoalhaven Fires
- Blue Mountains / Lithgow
- Wagga Canberra South Coast
- East Gippsland Group
- Tasmania Group
- TRC Main Group
- Western Australia
- ARC Main Group
- South Australia
- QLD Group
- Debbie Western Sydney Hub Chat
- Far North QLD Group
- Gospers Mountain Team

https://www.facebook.com/groups/dubbofeed/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/arcshoalhaven
https://www.facebook.com/groups/arcwagga/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/ARCgippsland/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/ARFtasmania/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/therescuecollective/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/mkcfreecycle/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/armakers/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/armakers/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/ARFQLD/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/2393996490873410/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/ARCfnq/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/WollemiWildlifeRescue/