

Report on Guest Speaker night, Wednesday 27th May 2009

## **Bats -Dark Angels**

by Michele Hero

Jeanette Miles, our May presenter, gave us an insight into the sad decline of bat species in our area. Her passion for these endearing creatures made everyone aware that many species of bats are declining.

Because bats cover such large areas and travel long distances, they are responsible for the long-range pollination and seed dispersal which preserves our bushland. One of their major roles is to control the population of mosquitos and midges, a single bat eating half their body weight overnight.

Jeanette's compassion for this misunderstood mammal, made attendees realise that future generations may not see, know or experience many species of these beautiful creatures.

The loss of bushland and the impact of this will affect all aspects of the environment. Jeanette described ways of protecting bats and farmers crops without destroying either. Her love and dedication is honourable.

We can all help through awareness of the incredible role and nature of these creatures. Maybe by become proactive in our efforts to preserve and care for this beautiful mammal, we can promote and protect their right to survive on our planet.

Jeanette is a specialist carer, a volunteer who rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned bats. As she says "Who will do it if I dont? Having grown to know and love them I could never give up on them."

Thank you Jeanette for your work, passion, compassion and your ability to communicate the realities surrounding the myths and misunderstandings of our flying foxes.

We can all help by planting natural species of trees and plants. Detailed flyers of the plant species they thrive on are available from the bat rescue team. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer your services would be much appreciated and most rewarding. Either phone 0447 222 889 or visit [http://goldcoastcatchments.org/members/bat\\_rescue\\_GC.htm](http://goldcoastcatchments.org/members/bat_rescue_GC.htm).