



**Media Release**  
**Wednesday 12 May 2010**

For immediate release

## Caring for Native Wildlife

Gecko - Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council (Gecko) invites all Gold Coasters to learn about how to live more harmoniously with native animals in South-East Queensland and what is involved in being a volunteer wildlife carer by attending their free monthly guest speaker night, held at 6:30 – 8:00pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 at Gecko House in Currumbin.

Karen Scott, President of Wildcare, will share her fascinating experiences and stories of the creatures she has cared for over many years.

South-East Queensland, in particular the Gold Coast, is home to a diverse range of native Australia fauna. However, rampant population growth and the subsequent clearing of huge amounts of land for development has led to destruction of their habitats, which has affected the safety of our wildlife immensely.

Every year countless sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife need to be rescued and undergo rehabilitation before they can be returned to their natural habitat. Volunteer wildlife carers are essential to providing this care. In South-East Queensland, Wildcare Australia Inc. is responsible for the training of many volunteers who go on to save the lives of thousands of animals in the Gold Coast region.

Rose Adams, President of Gecko, said "Whether they are cute and furry, sleek and slippery, soft and feathery or sharp and prickly, all our native creatures deserve our care to ensure they remain part of our lives in this uniquely biodiverse area of Australia. Wildcare does an amazing job with minimal resources and we can help them with better understanding of their work and financial support."

Wildcare Australia is a long established not-for-profit organisation situated in South-East Queensland that is dedicated to caring for native wildlife. It was formed in 1993 and has since established itself as a trusted and respected community group.

Karen Scott has been a wildlife carer for ten years and is actively involved in the rescue of wildlife in Southeast Queensland, in particular koalas, macropods and echidnas.

Karen will provide information on a variety of topics including the core issue of how humans interact with their environment and more specifically, the wildlife within it. She will also discuss reasons why animals need rescuing, what to do if an injured or sick animal is found and what being a volunteer wildlife carer is all about.

*Gecko presents a free guest speaker night on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month on topical environmental issues. A gold coin donation is requested per glass of wine and nibbles. For catering purposes and to prevent waste, RSVP by 3pm on the day before the event to [speakers@gecko.org.au](mailto:speakers@gecko.org.au) or call 5534 1412.*

### **For further information:**

Wildcare Australia Inc.	Karen Scott	5527 2444
Gecko Secretary	Lois Levy	0412 724 222