

Helpless bird viciously attacked by teenagers

Brian Williams
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

RSPCA staff have been stunned by the brutality and cruelty of three male teenagers who set alight a bushstone curlew at Cleveland, east of Brisbane, on Tuesday night.

Spokesman Michael Beatty said yesterday that staff urgently needed assistance in identifying the youths who were in a white station wagon with P plates.

The bird was attacked on the corner of Goth and Coburg streets in east Cleveland.

Resident Tracey Bates said she initially heard a car driving up and down the street and then a voice saying "we got him".

She said she saw three male teenagers get into the wagon and drive off. It was then she found the juvenile curlew.

Melinda Cowan of Brisbane Bird and Exotics Veterinary Service said the bird's plumage was singed, its upper beak broken and an eye damaged.

"Its flight feathers are singed but it should still have the ability to fly," she said. "I expect it will be in care about two months."

Dr Cowan said she had treated birds burnt in bushfires and house-

Koala shot in every limb



TOO MANY: It's been a horror year for animal cruelty cases.

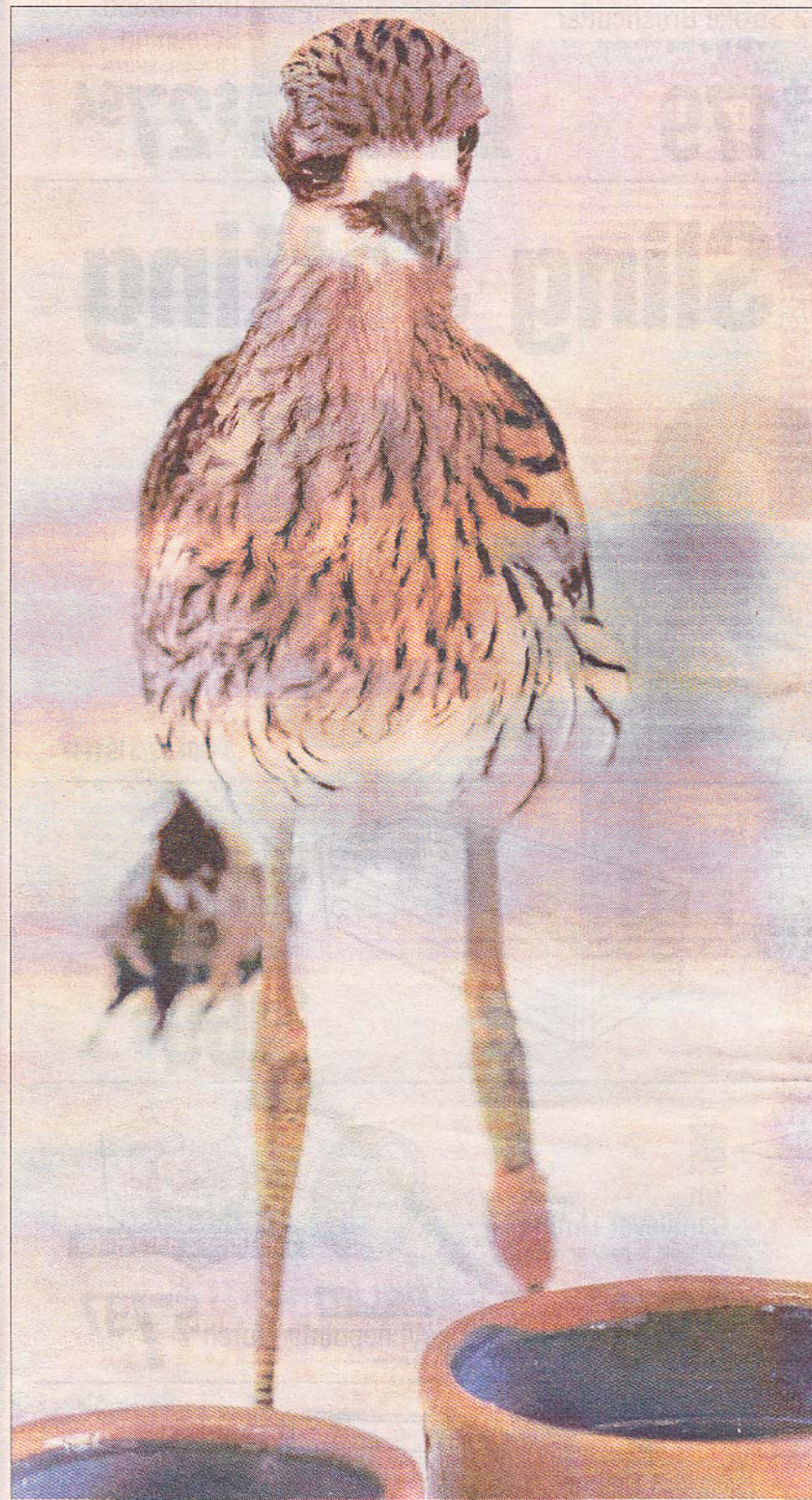
hold accidents but had never seen anything like the attack on the curlew.

RSPCA senior inspector Dan Young said the incident was the latest in a long list of animal cruelty cases.

"This is very disturbing," he said. "It's been a horror year. We hope someone could think that it's fun and cool to set fire to a helpless creature is beyond me."

Investigations into bird poisoning that have occurred in the Redland area since July are ongoing and last month a koala at Kippa-Ring, north of Brisbane was shot. Earlier this week a woman from Glenwood near Gympie was found guilty of docking puppies' tails.

Anyone with information should call 1300 852 199.



SET ALIGHT: This curlew will be recovering in care for two months after being attacked at Cleveland earlier this week. **Picture: Darren England**