

ORPHAN PELICAN



The orphaned pelican was found at a residential property and needed a blood transfusion, fluids and antibiotics.

400,000

The approximate number of pelicans in Australia.

The Australian pelican has the largest bill of any bird in the world and eats fish, crustaceans, small birds and in some cases turtles.



PELICAN FACTS

Pelicans are found on all continents except Antarctic. Pelican fossils have been dated at 40 million years. Pelican chicks communicate with their mothers while still in the egg so when they emerge, they have no trouble identifying their parents.

Pelican chick on the 'Rockie' road to recovery at rescue centre

GUMDALE'S Pelican and Seabird Rescue has a welcome addition: Rockie the pelican chick.

Carer Natalie Forrest believed Rockie, covered in downy feathers and not much larger than a chihuahua, is about six weeks old.

"It's the first one of this age found wandering a residential

property and needed a blood transfusion, fluids and antibiotics when he was banded in.

"He's quite ill. We are trying to stabilise him and introduce a fish slurry mix," she said.

It is unknown why the bird was abandoned.

"Pelicans nest on the ground.

One of the possibilities was the water levels have disturbed the nest," she said.

"When birds are threatened in that way they take flight.

"Another reason is he could have been a nest reject."

Fast facts:

The total capacity of a pelican's lower bill is seven litres.

Pelicans nest on the ground and often line their nests with seaweed and feathers. Two eggs are usually laid.

Pelicans and their relatives are the only group of birds to have webbing between all four toes.

The average life span is up to 30 years.

