



PELICANS COP A HIDING

The Island Wildlife Rescue Service has been called out to deal with a spate of horrific pelican injuries in recent months – including a bird riddled with shotgun pellets.

Lucikly we are not alone in the battle to save these magnificent birds, having joined forces with a group of dedicated women who call themselves Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc (P.A.S.R.).

These ladies formed their group after regularly camping at the southern end of the island and noticing a particular pelican with a nasty injury to one of its legs, due to fishing line entanglement.

At that stage in our history, the rescue service had no way of catching an injured pelican or any other bird that can fly. So these fabulous ladies travelled to Ballina on the north coast of NSW to be trained in pelican rescue by the late pelican guru, Lance Ferris.

They came back to the Island and trained me. After several trips to the Island, which the ladies paid for themselves, we finally caught that injured pelican.

Now, four years later, they have established an incorporated rescue service

rescuing all manner of sea birds from the Gold Coast up to Redcliffe. And I am proud to say Stradbroke Wildlife Rescue is now part of this wonderful group.

The photo is of a pelican that Hamy (president of P.A.S.R.) and I caught recently at the southern end of the island. It had a fishing line entanglement, but after clearing the line we ran a metal detector (kindly donated to us by Paul Smith of CRL) over it and found several bleeps in its wing. We had it x-rayed and discovered the poor blighter was riddled with shotgun pellets!

We took a trip to Australia Zoo Hospital where vets removed most of the pellets, but unfortunately there were some the vets deemed too risky to remove. After a short stint in rehabilitation, the pelican was released.

We have also caught a few Pelicans at Amity Point with some nasty injuries.

**STRADBROKE
WILDLIFE RESCUE
0407 766 052**

**24 hours a day
PELICAN AND SEABIRD RESCUE INC.
0404 118 301**