

## The tale of Two Toes and Bird Woman

Edwina Hefford is a Ticket Seller with a secret passion which has recently proven life-saving. The 'Bird Woman' of Brisbane Ferries recently used her special way with our feathered friends to help rescue one small creature from a cruel fate.

Feeding the birds during her breaks has become something of a ritual for Eddie, who even has names for them. There's 'Miranda', the Pekin Duck at Bulimba terminal. Eddie watched with pride in 2009, when the voluptuous white beauty paired with 'Orlando' the Mallard to produce three fine ducklings.

More recently, she spied 'Two Toes' at Hawthorne, the hapless pigeon whose small left foot became ensnared in a wad of cotton thread, which severed two of his four toes and left him in pain and partially lame.

"He'd just sit on the ground and could hardly put any weight on his feet, then I noticed the cancerous like growths on his left foot and so I contacted the Pelican and Seabird Rescue people," Eddie explained.

Volunteer, Mim Murabito, helped Eddie capture Two Toes to remove the offending cotton. "He didn't even struggle, he just knew we were going to help him," Eddie said. Mim, who has been rescuing birdlife from around the Brisbane River since 2001, took Two Toes home to remove the growths from his foot and apply some healing cream to the scar tissue.

The results were miraculous. "By the next day Two Toes was happily hopping around and even gripping onto perches," Eddie reported happily.

Pelican and Seabird Rescue Inc operates 24 hours, 7 days per week and can be contacted on 0404 118 301.

### Justine Day

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