Grey-headed Flying-foxes in Batemans Bay

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

- Blackouts
- Prolific flowering
- Heat stress incident
- GHFF arrive
- OEH and ESC nominate public contacts
- The 60 Minutes Lyssavirus story
- Water Gardens camp management plan
- Flying Fox Engage
- Buffer clearing
- Camp expands to west of golf course
- Flowering ends
- Flowering
- 50,000
- 15,000
- 10,000
- 1,200
- 7,000
- 5,000
- 1,500
- 0
Community engagement

- OEH and ESC contacts
- Letter box drops
- Community forums and meetings
- Fact sheets and website
- Face-to-face meetings
- Surveys, flying-fox engage

Prepared with...

- Community informed and engaged
- Buffers in place
- Cooperation between OEH and ESC
- Camp Management Plan endorsed
- Subsidised services provided to affected community

Council’s proactive approach was setting a benchmark in the country
Flying fox problem at crisis point in Eurobodalla council vowing to take fight higher.

Letters to the Editor - April 8

Flying us batty!

the early hours of Easter Saturday. Two days after the Batemans Bay post office had to be closed because a swarm of flying foxes was blocking the entrance.

Bats health warning

April 27, 2016, 5:23 p.m.

People are being reminded to avoid all contact with bats following the heat stress incident.

OEH and ESC nominate public contacts

2014 2015 2016

Camp expands to west of golf course

GHFF arrive

OEH and ESC nominate public contacts

Prolific flowering

Heat stress incident

Flowering ends

Water Gardens camp management plan

Conservation agreement

100,000

Local election

Federal election

Dispersal

Buffer clearing

Blackouts

National Interest Exemption

270,000

Camp expands to Catalina

Mass flowering

15,000

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100,000

Local election

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270,000

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Mass flowering

15,000
Lessons learned....

- We didn’t extend our communication and awareness efforts far enough.
- Large numbers of flying-foxes expose infrastructure issues (power blackouts, mobile phone power).
- People want to see something happening, immediately.

Lessons learned....

- An established relationship between council and OEH meant we worked together well.
- Cooperation between all three levels of government meant things moved forward and fast.
- Locals on the dispersal team worked well with the ecologists leading the dispersal program.
- Dispersal was effective as a short-term tool to nudge GHFF away for buffer clearing and relief to residents.
What we want to learn more about...

- Can we better prepare the community cope, especially (short term) influxes?
- Triggers for when management needs to change or step up?
- Can we predict influxes?
- Can the State government help with:
  - State needs to educate more broadly
  - Research
    - Early warning
    - Mental health impacts
  - Sustainable and strategic management
  - Communication tool

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