

## Wildcare's Tawny Tale

Mr Stinky is an Australian Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*), which are found all over Australia. Generally there are three types of frogmouths - the Tawny, the Marbled (found near Brisbane) and the Papuan Frogmouth (occupying the area between Carpentaria and Townsville). Tawny Frogmouths are medium to big birds with a wingspan of 65-98 cm. They live up to 10 years in the wild and are active at night. They are called frogmouths because of their big mouths and they hunt mostly ground dwelling animals, like large insects, spiders, frogs and other small animals. This one is called Mr Stinky for obvious reasons. Frogmouths watch, listen and glide down silently to take their prey on the ground.

Wildcare received a call about Mr Stinky in the early hours of an April morning. Mr Stinky was found caught in barbwire on a property in Yass and was quickly rushed to the vets. He had a 3cm rip in his neck area, which had to be sewn up and then treated with antibiotics. Since then he has been in the care of Wildcare waiting the day he can be released back into the wild.

As soon as Mr Stinky's wound has healed completely, and there are no scabs, he will be released back into the wild, as close as possible to the property where he was found. As Mr Stinky's carer, Elso said, "Wildcare loves looking after native Australian birds and I myself would not do anything else. I am fortunate to get the opportunity to work with all sorts of amazing birds. And if you are interested in looking after birds yourself, or want to learn more about the birds surrounding you, get in touch with Wildcare's bird coordinator ([birds@wildcare.com.au](mailto:birds@wildcare.com.au)). Maryanne can tell you all about how you can get involved."

Wildcare's 24/7 helpline for any injured, sick or orphaned Australian wildlife is 6299 1966. And one way to help prevent barbwire injuries to wildlife, such as birds and flying foxes, is to take it down where it is no longer needed.

Elso Pieterse  
Wildcare Carer

Photo caption: *Mr Stinky in rehab*

