

# How to create Kangaroo safe fences

## *Tracy & Greg*



Tracy and Greg are Wildlife Carers and Rescuers especially for kangaroos.

Tracy persuaded the local cemetery to put in kangaroo safe fences.

Greg has constructed many gates for kangaroos to use around the perimeter of his sanctuary.

# **Kangaroo Friendly Fences**

**Tracy Dods**

**Greg Keightley**

# Kangaroos & Fences







## **Making fencing safe for all wildlife and especially kangaroos.**

Does the fencing on your property really need to be there? Are you keeping something in or something out? If you have fences lying down, that are not maintained and wire lying loose on the ground. Consider gathering the wire and disposing of it properly. Loose wire is a danger to all wildlife traversing your property.











# Kangaroo Unsafe Fencing



Traditional stock fence has...  
hinge joint or chicken wire  
couple of strands of barb wire  
at the top, or multiple strands of  
barb wire or  
multiple strands of high-tension  
wire.

# Kangaroo Safe Fencing



Safe stock fence has...  
2 strands of high-tension wire,  
chicken wire secured on top of the wire, a strand of white horse sighter wire secured to the top of the chicken wire, a simple gate at points along the fence will let the smaller macropods travel through the property.



# Making a wildlife gate.



Monitor your fences and ascertain where the wildlife is traversing your property, there will be a gap under the fence and you will see fur stuck in the fencing wire where the animals move through.

A wildlife gate is a permanent small opening in a fence, it can be made with a simple U shaped bend of steel the bottom wire tied off to the base of the "gate" on either side. Make the opening large enough for small wildlife to pass through but small enough that cattle or sheep can not get through.

# **Different types of kangaroo friendly gates**



# The swinging steel gate



This H shape can be tensioned off and installed in both new and old fences.

# The swinging steel gate







## A one way gate

Helping wildlife move through  
properties in one direction only.





## The rustic kangaroo gate

If you do not make a kangaroo gate and your fence line passes over a kangaroo trail, one will be made for you. By wombats, kangaroos and all the other critters.



After the devastating fires of 2019/20 Hartley Vale cemetery replaced their burnt old rusty fence with a chicken wire and barb wire fence. A little kangaroo was found hanging in the barb wire. The Hartley Vale cemetery trust where devastated by the death of this kangaroo and gladly accepted recommendations from us on how to allow kangaroos access to the cemetery.





They put in simple H shaped kangaroo gates in each corner of the cemetery and the problem was solved. Kangaroos and other smaller wildlife could safely traverse the cemetery as they had done for generations.







# Adapting existing fencing



To make existing fences safer for all wildlife.

A great hack is this conduit available from Hardware stores, slit long ways and pop around the barb wire. for further safety, fence caps can be placed on top of the star pickets.











# Wildlife friendly orchards



If you net your fruit trees, consider removing the netting in Autumn and Winter. Make sure the dimension of the netting holes is small and conforms to wildlife friendly standards. Tie netting up and off the ground and make sure the netting is supported up and away from the tree with poly pipe or other such structure. This stops birds and bats landing on the tree and pecking at the fruit through the netting, and getting their little feet stuck.





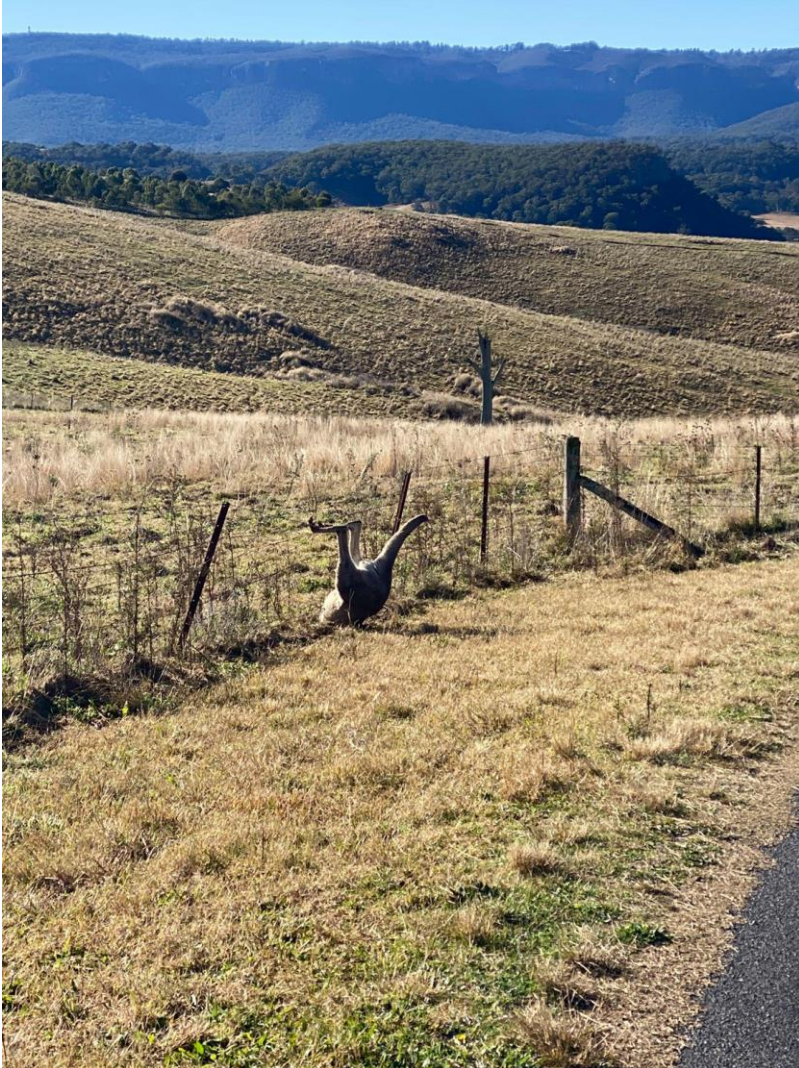


Kangaroos get trapped in fences every day





# Fence entanglement



If you do see an animal trapped in a fence, please don't attempt to free the animal yourself. This can be dangerous and should only be done by a trained wildlife rescuer.

Keep well away, keep dogs and children away, your presence will cause the animal to thrash about, making the wounds worse and stressing the animal.





All animals will suffer constriction wounds from fence entanglements and these will only become obvious after a few days. Please don't free an animal and allow them to escape.



# Rehabilitating fence injuries

Wildlife rehabilitators purchase their own medical supplies for the rehabilitation of the animals in their care, fence injuries can take up to 3 months to heal with bandage changes done every 4 days.





# The lucky ones













# Rehabilitating fence injuries - Myles



Myles was found hanging in a hinge joint fence, his head was buried in the dirt, his eyes swollen and irritated from the dirt, his feet lacerated and his tendons stretched. He had corneal ulcers and was successfully treated daily with Tricin.

With a few months of care from one of our trained macropod rehabilitators he made a complete



Myles was given daily physio and massage to help him regain his balance and the strength to stand again. Rehabilitation can take anywhere from a few weeks to a year depending on the severity of the injury.





