



RAY PARK habitat havens PROJECT



Powerful Owl rescued by Family

On Friday 4th February, just as the sun had gone down, the Crawford family were travelling back from an evening at the beach. Along Plympton Road opposite Ray Park, Carlingford we were hit by an almighty impact to our front windscreen. Thinking that somebody had thrown something at the car we stopped to check if there was any damage. There was no damage but on the side of the road we found a huge owl laying still. It was brown and grey with white spots. Anna (15) and Juliette (13) noticed that its eyes were open and the owl was breathing. We wrapped it up with a picnic blanket from the car and took it home.

The girls put the owl on the kitchen table and gently stroked it. It was a beautiful owl, its feathers were a soft, dark brown/grey colour with a white barring across its feathers. It was huddled up with its small face in the picnic blanket still in shock. Its bright yellow eyes were slightly open. My girls had grown attached to this amazing owl and asked if we could keep it. Of course we couldn't.



*Photo of Powerful Owl on kitchen table
Picture taken by Mark Crawford*

Given the impact on the car we were worried that it would not live. We called the 24 hour emergency number at the North Ryde Veterinarian Centre. They advised us to put the owl in a cardboard box and head straight down to the centre". The owl was so large that it did not fit in our cat container and we had to find a large box.

We then headed to the emergency centre with Anna nursing the owl on her lap in the biggest cardboard box we could find. At the Veterinary centre they took the details of where the owl was found and gave us information regarding injured wildlife.

The next morning we called the centre. They were grateful that we had rescued the owl. It was a rare "Powerful Owl" one of Australia's largest nocturnal birds. The good news was that the owl has recovered and following its complete recuperation would be released again into the Plympton Road area.

Story by: Claire Crawford



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ALL native birds, reptiles and mammals that live in Ray Park are vital to the environmental health of the Park!



Powerful Owl resting on Bamboo between Plympton Road and Midson Road, Beecroft

Picture by courtesy of: Steve Pym

The Ray Park Heritage Group Inc, recently secured two Government Grants: one to upgrade the Pioneers' Track and the other to enable a badly degraded section of the park behind Magnolia Ave and Japonica Road to be transformed into the "**Ray Park Habitat Havens Project**". In conjunction with the Bambara Bushcare Group this project aims to create havens for our local wildlife inhabitants – large or small, feathered, furred, scaled, or "powerful" – catering for all.

When next you go for a walk in Ray Park take a look at the Habitat Havens Project, if you have the time, walk the Pioneers' Track. But, whatever you do, don't forget to cross the creek into the established section of the Park and Look Up! Those dark green boxes high up on the trunks of the large trees are nesting boxes for all types of birds and mammals. All purchased and installed thanks to the generosity of families, groups and school children from our local community.

As the Heritage Havens Project continues more of these boxes will be placed in the trees around the havens project because immature trees lack the hollows required for nesting.

For further information about this project or if you would like to get involved telephone 9876 5713 or email rpheritage@netspace.net.au.