

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is always a heartbreak for me to read about people's dislike for our Flying Foxes because of their droppings and a bit of noise.

Realistically we need them, numbers are down, more than ever and we should protect and admire them rather than see them as a pest. I have been a Flying Fox carer for a long time and these animals are simply amazing.

The work they do seems to go unnoticed by most. Yet our tourists are delighted to see them fly out at night time and they seem to have a greater understanding than what we Australians have. We need to educate our members of the public and children in specific, plant more native flowering trees in safe areas for our wildlife so that they are encouraged to roost nearby, instead we seem to cut vast areas of bushland/eucalypt and rainforest down, hence our Flying Foxes are always on the look out for a better roosting place. They have specific needs (as do we) such as water and habitat they can live in and all this needs to be taken into consideration. Presently it is Baby Bat season, not a good time for any dispersals of colonies. Please re-consider your plans to give out licenses to people who do not really know what they are doing, shooting bats is very cruel as the bats may only get injured and may lay for days to die. Let's just all try and live in harmony with each other, be more tolerant of each other and learn to love our wonderful wildlife.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, if I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Britta Hawney