



Keeping communities connected



High Country Herald

FREE

TO
11,070
MAILBOXES

Highfields, Crows Nest, Meringandan, Blue Mountain Heights, Harlaxton, North Toowoomba, Mt Kynoch, Gowrie Junction, Cabarlah, Geham, Haden, Hampton, Cooyar, Ravensbourne, Goombungee, Oakey, Kingsthorpe, Gowrie Little Plain, Boodua, Glencoe, Peranga, Maclagan, Quinalow and Kulpi

WEEK STARTING June 21, 2016 - 4615 4416



Recommended retail price: \$1.00

Beware - Echidnas on the move

By JUDI GRAY

President of Wildlife Queensland, Toowoomba Branch

The short-beaked echidna is usually an elusive solitary animal, not commonly seen, despite being widespread in the greater Toowoomba region.

Winter time, however, is echidna breeding season and because of this they are currently on the move, looking for a mate, often in suburban and high-traffic areas.

Unfortunately, there has been a marked increase in echidna fatalities in the local region in the last few weeks, when these slow moving monotremes have come into harm's way on roads and with pet dogs.

In particular, a large number of road fatalities have been recorded on the New England highway between Highfields and Crows Nest.

Wildlife Queensland is appealing to drivers to be wary of echidnas when driving, and urged drivers to do their best to safely avoid them on the roads.

Should you find a dead or injured echidna on the road, take care for traffic yourself, then move it to the side and check the underside skin folds for a puggle (baby echidna.)



Echidna on Meringandan road

Any injured animals or orphaned puggles should be taken to a registered wildlife carer immediately for treatment.

Should you come across an echidna or any injured wildlife labelled with a pink tag, this indicates that the animal has al-

ready been assessed by a registered wildlife rescue volunteer.

The RSPCA Wildlife hotline number is 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625) and is the best point of contact for local wildlife rescue.