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# Big effort to open first Coastal penguin rehabilitation centre



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Local News



Sanctuary: Kathy Grieveson hopes to have the pool, enclosure and aviaries built before the busy summer months. Picture: Simon Sturzaker

Dozens of penguins are injured on the North West Coast every year. Registered wildlife carer Kathy Grieveson took in 28 injured birds between December and March and said penguins could go extinct in some areas if not properly protected.

“I have found through experience in wildlife care, even just working on one animal at a time, you can make a difference over a number of years,” she said.

The main threats to penguins are natural predators, introduced predators, human disturbances and reduction of their habitat, as seen during the recent storm surge.

At the moment the injured penguins need to be sent to facilities in the south of the state to regain their strength before being returned to their habitat.

“Penguins need to swim up to eight hours at a time to see if they are fit and ready to go back into the wild,” she said.



Ms Grieveson is building a rehabilitation centre on her property near Burnie so that penguins and other sea birds can be treated without the traumatic journey. Penguin Rehab and Release has received grants of about \$8000 from Burnie City Council and \$2000 from Waratah-Wynyard Council to build an above-ground pool, aviaries and an enclosure.

The facility will not be open to the public.

“We don’t want them to get used to people, we want them to remain wild.”

Ms Grieveson hopes to get the rehabilitation facility up and running by the end of October before the busy summer season but still needs funds for equipment.

To sponsor Penguin Rehab and Release, email [penguinrnr@gmail.com](mailto:penguinrnr@gmail.com) or call 0437 565 672.