

Seabird Rescue helps save Netty

By Michelle Fleming

MASSES of fishing line were tangled around a female pelican when Pelican and Seabird Rescue member Danielle Outram arrived at Shirley Creek near the Bongaree Caravan Park recently.

The bird was in a bad way and on closer inspection the team of six found the pelican had also swallowed some of the fishing net which could be felt in her stomach.

"We took the pelican to the Australian Wildlife Hospital and vet John Hanger took the net out," Danielle said.

"The bird also had pneumonia."

The pelican - affectionately called Netty - had a few more problems and she was later diagnosed with a paralysed windpipe.

"We thought it might have been from the fishing net but we found out it was a yeast imbalance caused most likely by being fed hot chips," Danielle said.

"Hot chips are bad for any seabird and people should try not to give them any. Residents also need to be aware of their fishing lines and keep an eye out for the



CAUGHT OUT: Netty the Pelican was rescued by Pelican and Seabird Rescue recently.

birds."

Netty was rescued by a team of six which included Hammy Forrest and the Power twins from Beerwah.

The twins also cared for Netty while she was undergoing treatment and rehabilitation before she was released into

Pumicestone Passage recently.

"We had a lot of interest from people who watched us rescue Netty so we wanted to let them know who we were," Danielle said.

If you see a bird in trouble call the Pelican and Seabird Rescue hotline on 0404 118 301. Call Danielle Outram on 0431 097 300.