

WILVOS WILDLIFE WHISPERINGS

October 2010

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560. Ph: 07 54 416200
www.wilvos.org.au



Sylvia Whiting P.O.A.

Yes, our WILVOS Chairperson and wildlife carer extraordinaire recently won the Pride of Australia Medal for 2010 in the Environmental category. This is a great honour, and a very well-deserved achievement.

All who know Sylvia realize her commitment to native wildlife and the environment.

WELL DONE SYLVIA



EARLY CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP FOR WILVOS !@#

10am Sunday 21st November 2010

Yandina Historic House (roundabout near Ginger Factory)

Devonshire Tea supplied for those who RSVP

Lovely *light quiche & salad* or *soup & toast* lunch available at only \$5 per person for those who want to linger longer.

*RSVP to Donna by email or phoning 0413 861757
by 12th November 2010*

RETURNS: Instructions for emailed and posted returns:

FOR THOSE WHO RETURN TELEPHONE OR FAUNA RETURNS BY EMAIL:

Please carefully read the following directions for return of forms. The website is to undergo major reconstruction, so until further notice the following people are handling the relevant Emailed or Posted Telephone and Fauna Returns.

ELECTRONIC FORMS i.e. THOSE SENT BY EMAIL:

'HOTTIES' please Email Telephone Returns to sammyringer@bigpond.com

CARERS please Email Fauna Returns to kerrie.bunney@bigpond.com

Carers who take any telephone 'enquiry' calls need to record these on a Telephone Return Form NOT the Fauna Return Form please. (Even if you are not a hotline volunteer.)

Fauna Returns ID numbers are for when an animal is physically in your care. The animals have that individual number so they can be tracked through to release. A dead animal on the side of the road would not be recorded with an ID number.

POSTED FORMS: i.e THOSE POSTED TO THE PO BOX

The secretary will send these Telephone Returns to Tammy Donlen and Fauna Returns to Zoe Jung, so if you post your forms in, just continue to do so to the WILVOS PO Box.

Carers please give all your current animals in care an Animal ID number as instructed on fauna return form and include all these animals as in your care on the Fauna Return every month.

Note: Returns have had the Species listed as "Bird". This is not correct. Use your Species List and correctly identify the animals you are caring for. Don't hesitate to ask an experienced carer for help and advice.

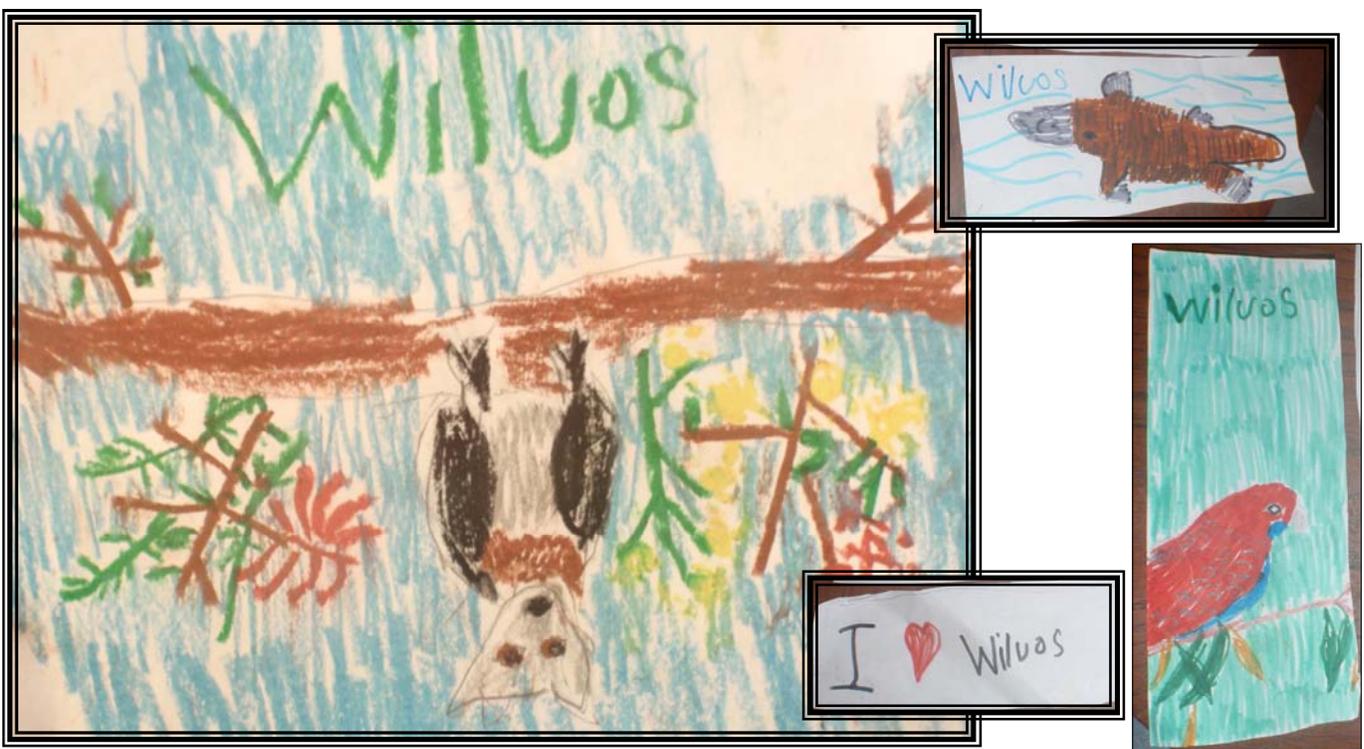
We want to get these forms correct. We are fortunate in having Kerrie willing to extract the relevant data from our returns as needed, whether for grant applications or for securing safer habitats for our wildlife, so we need to get 100% input from everyone, immediately after that last day of the month where possible.

When Kerrie extracts the data from the returns, it gives her very precise information. If I don't fill in my telephone and fauna returns, Kerrie can still look at the data and find out that I have had say 50 calls directed to me. We need to know what has happened to these animals, and it is our responsibility as a wildlife carer to provide this information.

IF YOU GENUINELY CARE ABOUT OUR WILDLIFE YOU WILL RETURN YOUR FORMS.

Please, please, please,...if you have any questions about how to fill in these forms, either email (preferably) or phone Kerrie on 54 415827. I had a couple of queries myself and Kerrie has emailed me back with directions on just how to handle specific data. So please don't hesitate to ask questions.....Donna

TIP: Put the blank email returns forms on your desktop. When you begin to fill in the form, immediately go to File and Save as...November Fauna Return (for example). In this way the blank return remains blank on your desktop.



AMARA'S SCHEME FOR PROMOTING WILVOS

My daughter Amara (9 years old) is a Junior Wilvos Member. She is passionate about spreading the word about WILVOs. Most people in her experience don't know about us. We have tried to do this through her school but they had restrictions on fundraising groups. So Amara came up with a new idea: creating her own things to raise people's awareness. Amara wants to encourage more people to either donate or enlist to become WILVO carers or helpers of some sort. She has been trying to get people she knows to donate to the cause. Amara has raised \$22 thus far. She does her fund-raising by drawing colour pictures of native animals that she sells for \$1 each to family and friends. She is also making and giving away little promotional cards. I have attached some examples of both.

Additionally, Amara intends to make bookmarks using paddle-pop sticks and small drawings, and picture frames promoting WILVOs. Sylvia is giving her some promotional materials she can give out with these. If your WILVOs kids are interested to join Amara's efforts, please contact us on 54423293 (I am on the WILVOs contact list). Readers can order Amara's creations through our Newsletter Editor donnalenoreanthonny@hotmail.com

Ray Kerkhove (Woombye)

Ray, You must be very proud of your daughter. What an inspiration to all!....Donna

ALLROUND EMERGENCY BIRD RECIPE TO HAVE ON HAND.

We all know that the best food to feed our wildlife is natural food, but when we get a call about a bird, we sometimes don't have specific food on hand, so this is a recipe which you can have rolled up in balls in the freezer as an emergency food supply for most bird species. It can be fed to magpies, honeyeaters, cuckoo shrikes! Ring Sylvia for details of use. (From "Introduction to Bird Caring" by Ailsa Watson . This may be an older reference manual but it is still a good one.)

1/4 cup finely grated apple, 1/4 cup finely grated carrot, 1/2 cup quality mince or finely chopped ox heart, 3 tablesspoons of Egg & Biscuit mix, 2 tablespoons Insectivore with added vitamins and calcium.

Roll up into little balls and place in a container in your freezer now! Write date on container.

NEVER FEED MINCE TO KOOKABURRAS. IT CAN LODGE IN THEIR LOWER BEAK AND CAUSE MAJOR BACTERIAL PROBLEMS.

Please call our fundraising treasure, Rosemary, 54 485215, to find out how you can help her with stalls etc. Cooking/Helping for the Dance on 30th October and Collectorama 6th November 2010.



REMINDER

Don't put gliders in socks or beanies, as they can get their claws tangled and it is not fun extricating tiny fibres from a tiny foot.

Those wonderful gliders—squirrel, sugar and feathertail.....

Some time ago I released a little group of five feathertail gliders. Though they drive me crazy, being such escapologists, I adore them and they are so tough. The smallest group came in at 3—4 grams each, and though so tiny they still lapped drops of milk formula off the teaspoon so well. (One thing I have learnt—no matter how careful I am at not getting their nose in the milk and, therefore risking inhalation pneumonia—IT OCCASIONALLY DOES HAPPEN!)

The other feathertails came from another wildlife group, and fortunately they were then all close to release stage. Nevertheless, by this pre-release stage, I was flat out putting their foliage and food into their aviary without at least one of them escaping. (At an earlier stage, one did spend a couple of nights free-ranging in my office until I caught the little devil!)

With possums and gliders, if the membrane at the side of their mouth is open then I get them to lap. I am not a great fan of teats with possums/gliders. I feel that inhalation pneumonia is one of the most common, but least diagnosed, problems with little marsupials. The little syringe teats I do love if I have possums with the membrane not fully open. (Available from WILVO Ray Nicholson, Caloundra.)

I have never ever fed a feathertail glider with a teat or tube...they just lap from as little as 2 grams....they just depend on us not to submerge their faces in the formula! Really I haven't killed one yet through drowning!

Now I do not panic quite so much if I suddenly have a feathertail 'go flat' while I am feeding it, because I have almost 'drowned' it!, though I am soooooo careful. I just promptly hold it up by the tail and give it plenty of 'CPR' (bang,bang,bang!) to its chest and back!@# OK...this may seem very unprofessional, but it works! Invariably the 'dead' animal returns to life after this vigorous massage!

It is also difficult convincing carers that feathertails may not be dead, that they may just be in torpor, due to cold or shock, or the combination of both! Sound advice— 'Don't bury a feathertail glider until it smells, as it may not be dead.' One may think they are dead, but warm the little darlings up and then they are lively as grasshoppers!

I guess I must add that they are smelly little creatures. When feeding them, if they do one drop of urine it smells as if it is a litre of urine passed by an adult male brushtail possum!

Sadly with gliders, they are often diagnosed as unviable when this is not so. It is Necessary to weigh the animals, please verify the species and check with experienced carers before having an animal euthanased.

It is also not unusual to get a call from a wildlife carer worrying that their squirrel/sugar glider is 'blind'. They are so relieved to hear that it is quite normal for gliders to have a good fur covering before their eyes actually open.

Obtuse little creatures that they all are!.....Anon

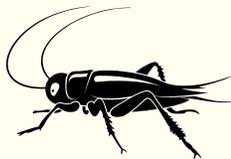
think I remember telling some of our carers I was going to reprint an article I put in a WILVOS newsletter years ago on breeding crickets. It could take time to find it, so here are some basics to get started with...could be a learning process....but don't go to Sylvia for advice...she admits it is not her forté.

Lie some egg cartons in a tub/bucket with a container (takeaway containers ideal) of dirt where the eggs will be laid. Feed with carrots, potato or any favourite cricket food. A wet sponge can be put in to supply water, or the reptile water gel has also been used. (Crickets can drown if a container of water is used) Spray the egg dirt daily to keep it moist. Cover tub with a towel/shadecloth.

Oops don't forget to put in a container of crickets!

To supply warmth, a couple of wine cask bladders half-filled with warm/hot water can be placed around the outside of the tub.

Now - when some of you have mastered it, please email me your recipes for successful cricket growing. They are the most nutritious food to use for insect eating animals so we should all have a supply or a friend with a supply!



- An adult bird of 300 grams needs a minimum aviary size of 4 metres by 2 metres. Really good aviaries can be made with steel pickets and black polypipe—similar to a greenhouse.
- Don't forget to weigh and record weights for all birds in your care, as with marsupials.
- Injured birds should be kept between 26 and 30 degreesC
- Good hygiene practices are imperative. Grey kangaroos could have one of any 20 strains of salmonella
- A brushtail possum joey weighs approx. 160 grams before the lungs are mature.
- Treatment of severe exudative dermatitis in possums needs to be carefully considered. Do we really want to fix animals short-term and then release them to later pain and suffering. These possum should NEVER EVER be rehabilitated and then released to an area other than from where they originated. Wildlife carers should not be guilty of introducing a disease into a healthy population.

SECRET TO SUCCESSFUL REHABILITATION OF WILDLIFE

“Think of the last day on the first day.”

(Dr Anne Fowler WILVOS workshop 2010.)

EMERGENCY REHYDRATION RECIPE

If you have no lectade/vytrate on hand, to add to preboiled water, the following can be used short term.

1 teaspoon sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, in a metric cup of water.

This is also good information if someone rings from an isolated area and wants advice on what to do with a dehydrated animal. Everyone has salt and sugar in the pantry.

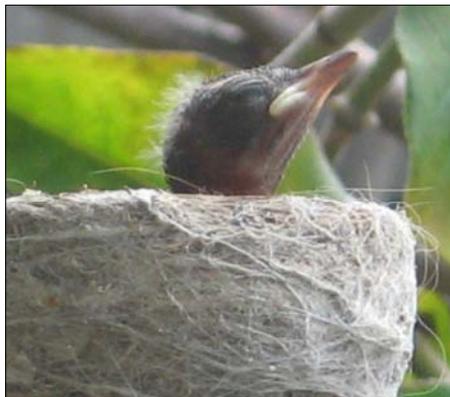
Warm.A.Pet (an Australian company) have very good heating pads. They have a Small Deluxe Model (12volts and 7 Heat/Voltage settings) that fits into the small rescue baskets. They also have In-car leads available to use with them for only \$8.25.

The heating pads are \$54.45, with a saving of about \$3 if over 10 are purchased etc. The price does not include freight.

sales@warmapet.com.au

Phone: (03) 95441471

Fax: (03) 95446789



On a recent visit to Jill Pawson's I was mesmerized by a willy wagtail nest housing three chicks just outside her window. What a beautiful nest

Sylvia and Donna received lovely letters from Aaron, Ethan and Levi Peeters. Each of their letters were so informative and humorous with their experiences as bird carers while with WILVOS.

Unfortunately, they have moved to Thailand but have a new insight into wildlife after attending workshops and caring for birds.

Hopefully we'll see them all back caring for wildlife on the Sunshine Coast some day.

What a great weekend WILVOS workshop participants had in July with Dr Derek Spielman's workshops. Wildlife veterinarians such as Derek and Anne (Fowler) have so much knowledge to impart and because they are working with wildlife throughout the year they are up to date with care and treatment practices, which are continually changing. Anyone who thinks "Oh, I've been to one of those workshops before," is totally ignorant and should not be looking after wildlife. We have to keep up with the changing knowledge...and it is daily changing...through treatments and carer feedback!

Derek arrived at Maroochydore airport at 9.05 on the Friday morning, so I suggested we go down to the Australian Wildlife Hospital for a visit so Derek could see the hospitals incredible facilities and meet staff there, some with whom he had had previous contact.

Jackie, one of the staff at the hospital, took Derek, Sylvia and myself on a wonderful tour of the facilities and Jackie must be commended for welcoming us with her enthusiasm and knowledge. Derek was also able to meet fellow wildlife veterinarian, Peter McKinney. Though they had had email contact some years before while in various parts of Asia, they had not actually met each other personally, so it was great that they were able to do so.

I was looking forward to attending workshops without running home to feed at lunchtime. I didn't get off that easily! After returning from the wildlife hospital, I had a call from Lyn Moye, our wonderful marsupial coordinator, to ask who could take a pinkie common brushtail possum at the hospital. I didn't really want sleepless nights before two big workshop days but that's the way it goes! I actually called him Dr Derek so I would remember when he came into care. (The memory is fading with age!)

Saturday morning saw the workshop starting on time with about forty very keen attendees, who were totally unaware of just how much knowledge they were going to glean from these talks. I especially loved the "Why is it so??" questions! Well that is my interpretation, because they were just simple queries as to why 'such and such'? I'd sit there thinking "Why hadn't I thought of that scenario before?"

Derek didn't really expect to get through as many topics as he did, and we probably did overwork him but it was an incredible weekend! I am still organizing my notes so will pass some of these on in the next newsletter. We have our annual raffle tickets to go out so next newsletter will be posted on the 29th November so you can sell and return your tickets in time for a Christmas Eve win.....*Donna*

TIP FROM SPIELMAN WORKSHOP: For removal of sticky fly paper.....yes birds, gliders bats can get stuck to those hanging papers.....use margarine. That simple!

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATERS.....*Donna's Notes!*

Better known as 'mutton birds' - do these birds taste like mutton or smell like mutton?—I don't know as I haven't invested time in either of these activities!

We do know that at certain times of the year we do get numerous calls about these on the hotline.

They are noted for their longevity, (I think 39 years is a long time for a wild bird!) having long-term partners, (I'm not sure how wise that is!) and being very dedicated parents (laying only one egg a year, they need to be!)

Shearwaters spend their life out at sea, except when breeding so this should be reflected in their care. They cannot be kept in care/on land for longer than four days, without detriment to their health.

On reading the following, we can understand why it is a 'survival of the fittest!'

".....I chose a full 12-month migration of these birds. After they finished breeding, they leave the Furneaux group, (between Victoria and Tasmania), they head south below the Antarctic convergence to feed and I called it a post-breeding dispersal. They feed, took down enough body reserve so they can migrate. And once the migration starts below New Zealand, they go straight up the Western side of the Pacific to the coast of Japan, closer into the Bering Sea. And that takes about 12 days, which is quite incredible. I mean, for a small, 600-gram bird to travel that far. It's quite incredible. They spend much of their off-shore winter in the Bering Sea or off the coast of Japan. And on their return migration, they come down to the central part of the Pacific, hit the Australian coast around Queensland, New South Wales, travel down the coast back to the colony." (Mark Carey (LaTrobe Uni.)

Phone Jackie on 54487680 for advice on shearwaters.

The incredible Suncoast Social Dance Club have again given us the opportunity to cater for their dances in return for door takings and extra donations.

Keep your wildlife food receipts and if you spend over \$100 in a 3 month period, send these to the PO Box for a food subsidy.

Thank you to this very generous dance club.

WILVOS are asked to collect wildlife from vets and members of the public as soon as possible. You may not be able to care for it, but it is expected that you pick up. You can then ring a coordinator to arrange for a carer.

Throw out old contact lists. It is not good to ring someone deceased or out of the state.

WELCOME AND THANKS TO OUR

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. Management Team 2010/11

***** Please try to direct your calls to the relevant people when making enquiries *****

It may look like we have a big number of people on our Management Team, but believe me, they all work so hard and contribute so much more than their title suggests. (Many hats!)

This list helps to guide people in the right direction for help and advice, as well as showing activities with which you may be able to help.

If you can help in any way, please contact the relevant people...they always need help in some way!

***Chairperson:** Sylvia Whiting 54 467760 email: membershipwilvos@iprimus.com.au
***Vice Chair:** Donna Anthony 54 467049 / 0413 861757 email: donnalenoanthonny@hotmail.com
Annette Buchanan 54 421734 email: abbk@inet.net.au
***Secretary:** Jill Underdown 54 457017 email: wilvos@iprimus.com.au
***Treasurer:** Annette Buchanan 54 421734 email: abbk@inet.net.au

Community Awareness/Schools: Roslyn Leslie 54850056/0409598437 email: pomonarozzie@bigpond.com

Co-Ordinators: Birds: Heather McMurray 54 149196 email: heth_n_oz@hotmail.com
Mammals: Lynn Moye 0438 765946 email: jaslynn2@hotmail.com
Reptiles: Jill Zimmerman 54781315 / 0411558827 email: wild_spirit5@yahoo.com.au
Raptors: Jackie Fraser 54999057

Data Returns Co-Ordinator: Kerrie Bunney 54 415827 email: kerrie.bunney@bigpond.com

Electronic Fauna Returns: Kerrie Bunney 54 415827 email: kerrie.bunney@bigpond.com

Posted Fauna Returns: Zoe Jung 54 350164 / 0411129866 email: zoejung@hotmail.com

Electronic Telephone Returns: Sammy Ringer 54943812/0410833981 email: returns@wilvos.org.au

Posted Telephone Returns: Tammy Donlen 54469205 / 0402806568 email: donlen@hotmail.com

Fundraising Officer/Stalls Co-Ordinators:

a. Rosemary Dax 54 485215
b. Desley Salmon 54 961824 / 0407 240365 email: jdj34sal@bigpond.com

Grants Application Officer: Zoe Jung 54 350164 / 0411129866 email: zoejung@hotmail.com

Media PR Co-Ordinator: Donna Anthony 54 467049 / 0413 861757 email: donnalenoanthonny@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary: Sylvia Whiting 54 467760 email: membershipwilvos@iprimus.com.au

Minute Secretary: Joyce Thompson 54 417658 email: joyglynn@bigpond.com

Newsletter Editor: Donna Anthony 54 467049 / 0413 861757 email: donnalenoanthonny@hotmail.com

Phone Co-Ordinators: Roster: Rosemary Dax 54 485215
Tammy McGarry
Phone Training: Roslyn Leslie 54 850056/0409 598437 email: pomonarozzie@bigpond.com

(If you can't do your rostered phone time—either swap or find someone else to do the shift. In other words—PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE....ORGANIZE IT YOURSELF! When you have changed your rostered times—advise the person before you on the roster so they know who to switch to, advise your replacement on who they should switch to, and advise Rosemary on 54 485 215 for her records.)

Release Officer: Paul Smith 54 438315 email: psmith01@hotmail.com

I.T. Co-Ordinators: Paul Smith 54 438315 email: psmith01@hotmail.com
Karl Gallant 54 149196 email: karl.gallant@ozemail.com.au

Workshop Co-ordinator: Donna Anthony 0413861757 email: donnalenoanthonny@hotmail.com

Welcome to all our new members. It was quite a gathering at the last Induction/New Carers workshop! It was also good to see new carers buy carry baskets and get set up ready for wildlife care. New carers are encouraged to ring experienced carers nearby and work one-on-one with wildlife in care. On the contact list...those with lowest membership numbers Sylvia 1 Rosemary 5 have been carers for a long time! Thanks for that tip Leslie.

WILDLIFE PLASTIC CARRY BASKETS ARE AT A DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$12. Phone or email Sylvia , details above.

The Mooloolaba Aquarium and Aviary Centre is now closed down. Our thanks to them for providing a very generous 25% discount on wildlife supplies over the past years..

Don't forget: Ringtails, as with other possums and gliders, have been known to accept their young back up to five days after separation. Persevere—even if it takes a couple of hours for a few nights!

Feeding them and minimum handling in between times will not make Mum reject them! As with birds, the human smell does not deter them. That is a fallacy!

Cull query

In reply to Brydges Jackson's letter (Noosa News, May 28) suggesting a cull of flying foxes, I was flying over the Noosa area recently on my way to work (essential pollinating duties) when I noticed the number of Noosa Waters residents passing through Tewantin.

I am concerned about where they end up and what problems they cause.

Would a cull be out of the question?

F. FOX

Biosphere resident

Donna loved this article she read in the Noosa paper!

Does she have a very warped sense of humour?...maybe, but she would really like to thank the guy who wrote it!...He hit the nail on the head!

"If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere."

- Frank A Clark -

If undelivered please return to:
Wildlife Volunteers Assoc. Inc
PO Box 2555
Nambour West Q 4560

Print Post approved
PP424022/1446
Wilvos Wildlife Whisperings
October 2010



**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
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AUSTRALIA**

WILVO GEM!

At our last WILVO committee meeting, Karl Gallant had all the information and quotes for a mobile bar-b-que trailer—as the wonderful people at the Antique Collectables had given us a barely used bar-b-que. Karl had suggested we have a trailer built so it was easy to take to venues and it could be built with storage facilities for eskies etc. We DO NOT want to see our lovely fund Raising Officer, Rosemary, shopping and carrying around heavy bags of sausages and soft drinks before fundraising events—into the car, out of the car etc etc. So Karl's trailer idea sounded good! Especially as he was willing to tow it around for fundraising sausage sizzles!

One quote for a custom built trailer was a bit beyond the boundaries of economic viability, but another was affordable. After discussion, Karl dropped a bombshell!

While doing some banking online with ING he saw a note where they asked for submissions from charitable organizations. Unbeknown to the rest of us, Karl wrote a very convincing submission, asking for \$10,000 to go towards a mobile bar-b-que trailer, and the new updated website which we are all eager to see under way. He then told us they had rung to say he was successful with his submission!

Go, Karl! Plenty of people have great ideas, but only a few actually take the initiative and follow through themselves. Thank you from everyone!

A special thanks to ING DIRECT—highly recommended for banking and home loans.