

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



JUNE 2018

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)
PO Box 4805 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560
Ph: (07) 5441 6200 www.wilvos.org.au
PLEASE NOTE POSTAL ADDRESS CHANGE.

1993 **WILVOS celebrate** **2018**
over 25 YEARS
of rescuing,
rehabilitating and releasing wildlife in
south-east Queensland

Our longstanding wildlife organization began with a few dedicated people well before incorporation in 1993. WILVOS have gone on to achieve so much for wildlife in the past almost three decades.

Thank you to all our wonderful members. Whether you are an active care, hotline volunteer, transporter or a Friend of WILVOS—your support is most appreciated. We can all make a difference.

WILVOS AGM Monday 10th September, 2018. 7.30 pm Railway Hall, Civic Way, Nambour.

All Welcome. Remember to go to the website and fill out Proxy/Nomination Form before the AGM and send it in at least two weeks before the meeting. If you'd like to take on a job talk to the present job holder. I'm sure they'd love to train you so they can retire!

By this time everyone will have received their yearly membership invoice in the mail. Please, please, please—for the sake of our membership secretary's sanity—read through your invoice carefully and correct any discrepancies. ie postal address, email address (often incorrect), phone numbers and caring status, such as Active Carer or Friend of WILVOS.

THEN, CHANGES OR NO CHANGES, EMAIL OR POST THE COMPLETE INVOICE BACK TO THE ABOVE WILVOS POST OFFICE BOX. Note the method of payment on your form, and if paying by EFT then please put your surname in the reference field.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

HELPERS PLEASE?

June and July are very busy months for our community awareness stalls.

Thank you to our helpers at Collectorama and thank you Laurie and Tom Wall who always invite us to participate.

Thank you to all who assisted at the World Environment Day Festival and a special thanks to Sharon from the Council who set up our spot.

COMING UP—Please offer to help if possible:

23rd June CCSA Caloundra Garage Sale

Contact Rosemary or Roslyn

24th June Noosa Festival of Water

Contact Rosemary or Roslyn

13/14/15 July Nambour Garden Exp

Email/text/phone Donna before 28th June 2018.

*Thank you to Ben Atherton, of **Ausgraphics**, for his continuing backup service, patience, and source of advice and support on any technical details with the WILVOS website. His website design has also led to increased involvement from carers in visits to the Website and Members Page for helpful carer information.*

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES :

Milk Powder, Teats, Bottles, Pouches/Carry bags for possums and macropods, Oxbow Critical Care, Charcoal Powder, 1kg packs of Insectivore . Phone/Email Donna.

Possum Boxes/ Dreys available when animals reach size requiring same. Phone/Email Sylvia.

Pet and produce shops may give a discount. Please show your Membership Card when buying food for wildlife.

The best food we can give our animals is what they would be eating in the wild. Supplement foods are just that! Needless to say there are supplements such as Calcium that are necessary. **Supplements are just that.**

FREE CAGES

Before you get animals into care it is necessary to be set up and be prepared.

From time to time Sylvia has cages to give away. Please call and take advantage of some free advice at the same time! PH 5446 7760

At the moment, the discount store in Howard , Nambour, up near Aldi, has the plastic rescue baskets in stock.

Don't forget to keep in mind 'natural dispersment time' when releasing wildlife.

A valuable resource to consult:

www.worldwidewounds.com

Thank you to Sandra Swinburn who makes a monthly contribution to WILVOS through the Good2Give platform, where the employer matches the employee donation.



Our thanks to **Yandina Hardware** for their continuing support of WILVOS with their contribution towards our nest boxing materials.

CARERS: If you don't already have your fauna and phone returns up to date on the WildMan Recording system, in the Members section on the website, then please ring Kay Dawson as soon as possible. Kay will help you get up and running with your Members Username and Password. Once that is organized, you'll then be on your way to entering your fauna and hotline records.

Yes, this lady will actually enter the details into your fauna and phone records for you, but this should not be necessary unless either you do not have a computer, or you are very technologically challenged!

Kay will gladly help you with instructions on entering data so, please, if you haven't already worked it out, please contact her for help. A couple of calls and you'll be all ok!

Also, advise on the dimensions of the aviaries or cages you have that belong to WILVOS. Kay is transferring these records onto the Assets section of the system. You can do this yourself by adding under Assets but again don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it.

Without Kay, Lisa and Rachel's work the WildMan Recording System would have taken a long time to get operational and up-to-date. Everyone is getting a phone call from Kay, asking what animals are in care, and catching up on the years animals. The numbers of wildlife coming through from our phone roster volunteers and through our rehabilitators are the most accurate they have been in years.

It is unfortunate that someone has to expend this energy getting everyone to keep these all important statistics up to date. It is an opportunity to help our wildlife so we should be keen to do so. Personally, I have always found it a chore because these statistics were never accurate and up-to-date and they were just filed away and not put to good use.

Now if the local Councils or Main Roads ask for information on road kill areas or such, the information is there at hand and can quickly be produced. We wildlife carers can be a little lackadaisical but these statistics are important. Luckily it is Kays forte to help out where needed....so make her feel needed!

Our statistics can make things happen. Council or Main Roads may need statistics for wildlife projects

<http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/gardening-australia/FA1705V014S00> Check out Episode 14.

DO WE WANT OUR POSSUMS TO LIVE OR DIE?

That sounds a ridiculous question. Of course we want them to live happily ever after in the wild once released.

It is our rehabilitation techniques that determine this outcome. From the moment wildlife come into our care, no matter how young, their future is dependent on our care.

There are two scenarios:

1. We take a little possum joey into care and feed and look after it in all the right ways for a very little joey. As this little one grows, it is well-loved but treated like a domestic pet and fed 'human' food. Because it is introduced to delicious fruit and vegetables it chooses to eat this over the native foliage offered.

2. We take a little possum joey into care and feed and look after it in all the right ways again for a very little joey. As this little one grows it is also well-loved, but as it develops, human contact is gradually withdrawn and it is treated like a native animal that is one day going to have to survive in the wild with all its natural instincts intact. It is introduced to natural possum food at a very early age and, along with formula, this foliage, bark and bugs comprises its total diet throughout its rehabilitation.

Which animal has the best chance of survival in the wild? I don't think one has to be Albert Einstein to know that the first animal is at a distinct disadvantage. Do you really want to rear a possum with the best chance of survival in the wild, or commit them to a short and very sad life out there? The reality is brutal.

If a debilitated adult possum comes in, then yes it can be fed formula and fruit and vegetables with its foliage to build it up. This possum knows what to eat and on return to the wild it will adapt again to its familiar territory.

With our rehabilitating possum joeys we want fit animals not fat animals. Their life is in your hands. It is totally ludicrous to have a wildlife carer say, "my possum doesn't like foliage". If this is the case, then you are doing something very wrong!

One of our carers, Rebecca, received a complement recently. Another carer, who just does pre-release possums said she'll always take Rebecca's possums as they are non-humanized, good foliage eaters with no knowledge of 'people food'. These are the 'survivors'. Carers should all experience pre-release animals to realize just how care methods means 'life or death'.

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL DETAILS:

When receiving wildlife from AWH please follow up by advising them when an animal dies, is released, or is passed to another carer. Quote Accession no. from pink slip and details of next carer. Pass your pink slip on along with the animals.

**hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au or
phone 5436 2340**

Don't forget to pass on the AWH pink slip if you pass wildlife to another carer.

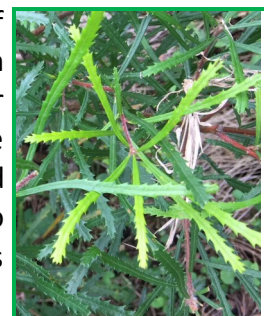
**30th June is close at hand. Ensure
your records are up to date.**



Thank you, Anita, for sourcing the Click & Heat heat pads. Tawny & Matt from Café Nurcha in Maroochydore (love their delicious food!) gave us a great deal and it is most appreciated. These heat pads are great to carry in the car for when you want instant warmth for an orphaned or injured animal.

Did you know? The length of a snake's skin is up to 25% larger than the snake.

If passing on possums take an armful of the possums favourite varieties of foliage. If planting in your own garden or foraging from the forest or revegetated areas, it is best to choose indigenous species of plants also.



To become a wildlife carer you must hold a rehabilitation permit and meet standards described in Code of Practice—Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/caring-for-wildlife

All attendees enjoyed Dr Lyndall Pettett's Rehabilitation & Release workshop. Hopefully it reinforced the importance of care practices leading to release of our wildlife.

The following I found especially interesting. In releasing a rehabilitated dermatitis affected possum back to its area, what have we learned about its prospective future? Nothing!

Using dye marking is a form of desperately needed research into such subjects as dermatitis. It is not enough to rehabilitate wildlife—we have to learn at every opportunity, to ensure the future of our native animals.

"Consider dye marking animals to assist in identification of any animal that comes back into care from not adjusting to freedom. This is particularly helpful with the possums but would also detect any birds or reptiles that have not been properly prepared for release. Hair dye is commonly used now days. Swab it on to an area, wait 15 minutes then remove any excess with a cloth. Using dye would also be beneficial in detecting an animal that returns to care. If all carers are told about release dyeing then anyone who receives an animal into care with dye could let the rest of the network know. If a link can be made to establish the information around the animal's previous release, then lessons could be learn to prevent it happening again. It needs to be rigorously expressed to the carer that in fact any animal coming back into care can be a good sign, at least the animal has survived for a period out in the wild. "

Thank you Lyndall.

Check out on the Members Page under

Carer Resources:

Release-Workshop-Notes:

Wildlife Release Protocols & Release Techniques

These papers are from years of study and field research and will be of a great help to carers in preparing animals for release. It is a great resource for information on native diets and environmental aspects..

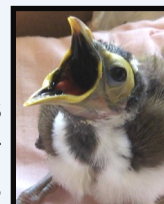
Bird Workshop 1.30 to 4PM on 23rd June 2018

For Details & Bookings:

workshops@wilvos.org.au

This workshop is at a carer's place so is a good opportunity for new carer members to see some practical hands on wildlife caring and meet other carers in a small group situation.

It is good to find out just what you need to set up for birds coming into care, and to make contact with others who can help you along the way.



Bribie & District Wildlife Rescue are holding workshops on the weekend of 30th June and 1st July.

Saturday is on Reptile Care & Rehabilitation and Sunday on Possum and Glider Rehabilitation.

Both workshops are by Dr Robyn Stenner BVSc

For bookings: Phone 0400 836 592

It is good to support other wildlife groups workshops when possible. Wildlife caring is an ever learning process. Networking with other wildlife carers is great socially as well as helping our wildlife.

Thank you to all those hotline volunteers who respond so quickly when Rachel sends out a request for help. Ideally volunteers will arrange a swap with another hotliner but emergencies do happen.

Queensland Government: "You are invited to provide feedback on a number of proposed options for the future management of protected animals, with a particular focus on commercial and recreational wildlife licencing. These proposed options are explained in the 'Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement: Reviewing the framework for the management of protected wildlife (animals) in Queensland under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (PDF, 2.11MB)'. **Submissions close at 5pm on Friday 29 June 2018.**

The Outside School Hours Care program at Cooroy State School runs a "Kindness Club". Maddie, a student there, wished to give a gift to a wildlife carer in the area. A lovely thought! Thank you from all WILVOS and especially from Bronwyn!

INDIAN MYNA BIRDS

The Sunshine Coast Council is very proactive in their campaign to control these birds.

Indian myna birds are now listed as one of the world's most invasive pest species, and this is easy to believe when observing their spread around the Sunshine Coast and hinterland areas.

The Council asks that people contact the Customer Service Centre **07 5475 7272** to advise where they have seen these birds, and to request a trap if they wish to help capture the birds.

The Indian myna's impact on our native species is distressing. Their aggressive nature leads to them taking over the nesting places of our native species, even those of the larger parrots. They have been filmed killing young mammals such as gliders. Our native animals have enough to contend with and need all the help they can get.

Sunshine Coast Council provides the following services to assist resident to control Indian myna birds:

- Provision of trapping equipment
- Assistance to set up and operate trapping equipment
- Humane euthanasia and disposal of trapped birds
- Coordination of neighbouring control programs

More information is available on the Sunshine Coast Council website.



The introduced Common or Indian Myna
Photo: Qld Department of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Residents in the community can make a difference.

The Canberra Indian Myna Action Group was formed in 2006 by citizens concerned about the damage done by this feral and invasive species.

In their first ten years they caught 58,000 birds with backyard traps. This has saved the lives of so many native animals and the health of many humans.

WE CAN DO THIS!



Our native Noisy Miner

Yes, these native birds may be pesky little birds at times. Why? Even those who denigrate these birds agree that it is a man-made problem. We destroyed their habitat.

Create a bushy garden with a variety of flowering, fruiting and seeding plants to help the vegetation balance.

It is important that people distinguish between the native **grey** Noisy Miner and the feral **brown** Indian Myna.

GREY GOOD ~ BROWN BAD

Echidnas, the Different Mammal

Dr. Peggy Rismiller OAM

Anatomical Sciences, University of Adelaide,
Adelaide, South Australia 5005

*Pelican Lagoon Research & Wildlife Centre,
Penneshaw, SA 5222

Email: echidna@kin.net.au

The following is an excerpt
from Dr Peggy Rismillers
presentation at the National
Wildlife Conference in 2010.



Reproduction and care of young

In general, it is said that echidnas breed during the winter months (June – August).

Studies in various parts of Australia examined this in detail and found that the exact timing and duration of the breeding season varied from region to region. At the lowest latitude (Tasmania, 42°S) echidnas mated over a period of 65 days, starting on 23 June. At the most northerly study site, south-east Queensland (28°S), mating occurred over 31 days, but did not commence until 1 August. Mating durations at the 35°S, Kangaroo Island, and 36°S, Kosciusko sites were 45 and 36 days, respectively. However, breeding at these 2 locations overlapped by only one day, ending on Kangaroo Island and beginning at the Kosciusko site on 30 July.

The single egg is laid directly into the pouch after a gestation period of 22 days (Rismiller and McKelvey 2000) and hatches after 10.5 days (Griffiths 1978). The size of the puggle at hatching is between 270 - 328 mg (Rismiller and McKelvey 2000). A way to relate to this minuscule size is to hold an Australian 5 cent coin in your hand and remember it talks 8 newly hatched echidnas to weight as much as the coin.

The puggle has no teat to attach to, but clings with its well developed front legs to the hairs on the mother's belly. The milk patches are located on either side of the pouch approximately where one would expect a teat or a nipple to be. The young suckles at the milk patches, it does not lick.

Echidnas are different in many ways to other mammals. Echidna milk is rich in fat and protein and the young grow rapidly. While in the pouch, puggles grow at approximately the same rate, regardless of the body mass of the mother.

Depending on the body mass of the female the puggle will be carried for between 45 and 55 days before being placed in a special dug nursery burrow. A nursery burrow can be dug just about anywhere (Table 2). Once inside the nursery, the life of the young changes dramatically. It goes from clinging to the belly of its mother and having access to the milk patch at all times to being left alone in a cool (15 - 18°C) chamber (Rismiller 2008).

After discovering active nursery burrows it took hundreds more hours of observations to conclusively determine that females returned to suckle their young for only 2 hours once every 5 days (Rismiller 1999; Rismiller and McKelvey 2009). On a number of occasions over the past 22 years we had the opportunity to access the nursery chamber and weigh the young before and after the mother had visited. We discovered that 1) a young will ingest between 10 to 40% of its own body mass in any one feeding session and 2) once in the burrow, young grew at different rates depending on the body mass of the mother (Rismiller and McKelvey 2003; Rismiller 2008).

Regardless of body mass, young are weaned at about 7 months of age with small mother's weaning small young and larger mother's weaning larger young. At weaning the female opens the burrow, suckles the young and rarely returns. This means there is no mother/offspring relationship or teaching the young what to eat and where to go. Some would call this a hard release.

How observations on wild echidnas can assist with successful echidna rescue and rearing

1) A 'rescued' echidna should always be returned close to the area it was found because a) echidnas do have home ranges and a good sense of orientation (Rismiller and McKelvey 1995),

b) between August and March a displaced lactating female will travel great distances to get back to her burrow young.

2) Hand rearing a pouch or burrow young echidna is very different to handrearing any type of marsupial.

3) A natural as possible approach to rearing and releasing an echidna will benefit the long term health and welfare of the animal returned to the wild.



The Pelican Lagoon Research & Wildlife Centre on Kangaroo Island is an amazing place. The research conducted there has allowed us all to learn so much about the fascinating echidna. www.echidna.edu.au

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. (WILVOS) Co-ordinating Team for 2017/18

Please direct your calls to the relevant people when making enquiries

ie Membership enquiries to Sylvia (Or advice, complaints, praise!)

THANK YOU TO ALL MANAGEMENT TEAM MEMBERS & HELPERS WHO GIVE OF THEIR TIME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.


*** Management Committee

| FUNCTION | E-MAIL | OFFICER | PHONE |
|--|--|-------------------|------------------------|
| ***WILVOS Chair | chair@wilvos.org.au | Sylvia Whiting | 5446 7760 0400 125 807 |
| ***WILVOS Treasurer | treasurer@wilvos.org.au | Annette Buchanan | 0418 194 695 |
| ***WILVOS Secretary | secretary@wilvos.org.au | Leslie Ayling | 5441 7421 0437 637 404 |
| ***WILVOS Vice Chair (1) & Minute Secretary | | Joyce Thompson | 5441 7658 |
| ***Vice Chair (2) | enquiries@wilvos.org.au | Donna Brennan | 0413 861 757 |
| WILVOS Community Awareness & Hotline Phone Training | awareness@wilvos.org.au | Roslyn Ann Leslie | 5485 0056 |
| WILVOS Data Returns | returns@wilvos.org.au | Kay Dawson | 0412 671 846 |
| WILVOS Environment | environment@wilvos.org.au | Lyndall Pettett | |
| WILVOS Fundraising | | Rosemary Dax | 5475 4455 |
| WILVOS Grants | grants@wilvos.org.au | Keith Campbell | 0408 457 601 |
| WILVOS Hotline | hotline@wilvos.org.au | Rachel Aspinall | 0407 881 008 |
| WILVOS Website Members Page Registration & Contact List Changes | hotline@wilvos.org.au | Lisa Domagala | 5441 6200 |
| WILVOS Membership | membership@wilvos.org.au | Sylvia Whiting | 5446 7760 0400 125 807 |
| WILVOS Newsletter Editor | newsletter@wilvos.org.au | Donna Brennan | 0413 861 757 |
| WILVOS Releases | releases@wilvos.org.au | Paul Smith or Ash | 5443 8315 Paul |
| WILVOS Social Media/PR | recruitment@wilvos.org.au | Nicci Purton | 0404 459 939 |
| WILVOS Workshop Bookings | workshops@wilvos.org.au | Helen Stewart | 0428 991 026 5445 7762 |

Co-Ordinators

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|------------------------|
| WILVOS Bats | bats@wilvos.org.au | Terrie Ridgway | 0487 930 903 |
| WILVOS Birds | birds@wilvos.org.au | Marie Walton | 0419 753 736 |
| WILVOS Hotline | hotline@wilvos.org.au | Rachel Aspinall | 5478 6389 0407 881 008 |
| WILVOS Macropods | macropods@wilvos.org.au | Sylvia Whiting | 5446 7760 0400 125 807 |
| WILVOS Marsupials | marsupials@wilvos.org.au | Mae Connor | |
| WILVOS Raptors | | Jackie Fraser | 5499 9057 |

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

 any thanks to all those who attended the recent induction. To allow coordinators to have your correct email address, could everyone who recently joined as a carer on the contact list, or on the hotline, please send an email to each of the following. Just put New Member and your name in the Subject section. The coordinators can then ensure you are on their lists with the correct email address.

birds@wilvos.org.au

membership@wilvos.org.au

marsupials@wilvos.org.au

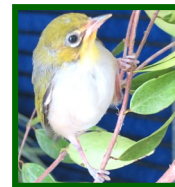
hotline@wilvos.org.au

To access Members Page for Username & Password. Email hotline@wilvos.org.au for instructions in same.



FOR EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ON WILDLIFE CARE:

www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com.au



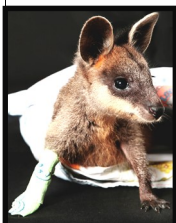
Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference SYDNEY
2/3/4/5 July 2018 sydney.awrc.org.au

It's time once again for the bi-annual Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference. There is a wonderful program of speakers and everyone is encouraged to check out the past papers on the website. These go back as far as the original conference at Werribee in 2003. You will find most subjects covered over the many years. I'm sure you have all gained so much knowledge from this site. www.awrc.org.au

Many thanks to Ann Moran who once again stimulated our minds on the subject of native plants. Each time we learn a little more and this is definitely of benefit to our wildlife in care, and in our back yard.

If undelivered please return to:
Wildlife Volunteers Assoc. Inc
PO Box 4805
Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560

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WILVOS WILDLIFE WHISPERINGS
June 2018



SURFACE
MAIL

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THANK YOU TO OUR VETERINARIANS

Wildlife carers are dependent on vets for advice and treatments for our native animals. From July to December the Australian Wildlife Hospital is very busy, so they prefer to concentrate their efforts on emergencies. If treatment can be had elsewhere for such procedures such as routine injections (ie 8 in 1 injections for macropods) then this would be appreciated.

It is very helpful if carers get to know their local vet, and pick up injured and orphaned wildlife as soon as possible if called upon. Many vets are interested in learning more about native animals so take the time to point out some of the idiosyncrasies of wildlife. They are so very different to cats and dog and everyone likes to know more about our amazing Australian animals.

I am forever grateful to Charlotte at Woombye Vet Surgery for her macropod expertise, and to my local Yandina Vets, Sheree and Tom, for their time in checking out injured wildlife. The vet nurses always have the form filled in with details, which helps me with my lack of organizational skills.....Donna