

# WILVOS WILDLIFE WHISPERINGS

*JULY 2010*



## WILVOS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**10am to 1pm**

**Sunday 22nd August 2010**

**Rotary Community Hall**

**Windsor Road Nambour**

**10.30—11am Election Office Bearers**

**11 —1pm Time for light lunch & chat**

This is the day of the year when all positions on the Management Team become vacant. We would encourage everyone to fill in the nomination forms included in this newsletter. All help gratefully accepted!

Being involved in a wildlife volunteer group should not just be about caring for our wildlife—ultimately it will also involve helping out with the multitude of tasks that must be performed if the organization is to attain maximum benefit to our wildlife and to the whole environment.

**We hope you all come along for the AGM as it is a good time to socialize with other members.**

**Kettle will be boiling as always!  
RSVP To Jane 14th August.**

**Please return Proxy/Nomination Forms & Workshop Confirmation forms to the WILVOS PO Box as soon as possible.**



Binkin, the swamphen, doing what he is supposed to do before return to the wild.

## REST IN PEACE, ARTHUR.

It was another sad day for WILVOS with the loss of Arthur Beck. Arthur inspired all who met him, and was always so willing to help anyone who was keen to learn about our wildlife.

Arthur had a special expertise with tawnies and kingfishers, as well as all bird species that were fortunate enough to find their way to his care. It is not only carers who will miss Arthur, but also his local vets who appreciated his skills.

Our sympathies to all Arthur's family. We will all miss this lovely gentleman.







**H**eather McMurray has been busy spreading her knowledge of our native wildlife around the Sunshine Coast.

Students from Chancellor Park State School phoned to ask if they could come & see Heather's possums as they were doing a project at school.. They took lots of photos and Heather sent them off armed with information. One of the students returned with some pouches they had made, to say 'thank you'.

(Carita's friend—not in photograph—is Jorden English, who was also so very interested and helpful.).

Photo: Heather McMurray and Carita

### A 'follow up' on the Hotline.....

It's not something I often do – getting in touch with someone who called when I was on the hotline – just to see how things turned out. You give people the numbers and hope for the best. You seldom know the outcome of the drama that led to the call.



This call wasn't *that* out of the ordinary – a baby ringtail clinging to its dead mother by the side of the road. On my returns sheet I noted 'Ringtail – mother HBC, dead, baby alive, and the three carers/groups I referred her to. However, the woman who called had a lovely voice and seemed to be concerned, not panicked (I wrapped up the little one in a flannelette and gave it some water and honey'). She was in Brisbane and I had little knowledge of the groups I referred her to.

That evening, I looked over my return sheet and decided to call her. I am so glad I did.

First – she was over the moon that I had followed up.

Second – she told me that the people and groups I had referred her to hadn't been able to help and she had decided to take the youngster to the vet.

Third – the vet examined the juvenile and judged it dehydrated but otherwise fine – and he had a list of carers in the area to take it to for rehabilitation and eventual release back to its home range..

Fourth – and most gratifying – she told me she was some months off retirement and was wondering what to do with her time.

I told her there were worse things to do than caring for wildlife – and she agreed.

Note to myself – follow up on at least *one* call from each hotline session – you never know where it might lead..... **Sammy Ringer**

### PAYMENTS TO WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Could everyone please note that any payments, cheques/money orders, must be made out to:

#### WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION INC.

With new bank regulations “WILVOS” is not correct, so the full name of the association must be stated, or it makes more work for our treasurer, Annette, who already does an amazing job.

**.....and yes, EPA have given our Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc a permit to rehabilitate wildlife for another three years.**

Please note that our individual permits must be renewed each year.

The rules for permits will be enforced by EPA and it is a requirement of our individual permits that we attend at least two workshops a year. As an organization, WILVOS expect those on the carers contact list to attend all workshops where possible.

Details of workshop attendance will be provided, on request, to the EPA. Permits are a privilege, not an entitlement and we must show that we are willing to keep up to date with new knowledge in care practices. It is not enough to just keep an animal alive—we have to give it the highest quality of care in preparation for a successful return to the wild.



recently had a gentleman call me about a squirrel glider he had rescued off a barbed wire fence.

Fearing the worst, I went to pick up the poor animal. I wasn't feeling too optimistic, as the glider was sitting in his lap covered with a small warm blanket. No healthy glider would be sitting quietly in anyone's lap—they would usually warm up and inflict some very painful damage!



*This isn't a photo of the glider in question! This was a younger, sweeter model!*

After explaining the dangers of a lively glider, I advised him to place the glider in a flannelette pillow case (turned inside out and closed at the top) with some native foliage and flowers to help ease its stress, if it wasn't passed feeling anything at all, and to keep it warm till I arrived in about thirty minutes.

I was pleasantly surprised to hear how this gentleman removed the glider from the barbed wire fence. I think he must have attended one of our WILVOS workshops! He carefully removed each barb, while rotating the animal around the wire, without tearing any of the membrane. What was even more amazing was that he had nothing wrapped around the animal while he did this, which explains how comatose the poor squirrel glider was!

So often, in these cases, extensive damage is done to the membrane in removing the animal from the barbs, which leads to unnecessary euthanasia. Gliders need good healthy gliding membranes for survival in the wild.

This glider became a feisty little monster within 24 hours of care, which was a delight to see. The membranes also healed quickly. It was great to see a happy end to a barbed wired story, with the glider being returned in a box to its home in a good healthy state.....Donna

Once again, Dr Anne Fowler's workshops provided us with a wealth of knowledge. Next year we will try to organize a spring visit to co-ordinate with Anne's different workshop topics. Anne told us that she has learned so much in the last six months that it scares her! What chance do we have?!?

I must defrag my brain! Anne also said that Derek Spielman had them all spellbound at the Wildlife Conference.

Workshop manuals are good reference material, but by actually being at the workshop, so much more is learned.

- Use glass feeding containers rather than coloured containers. Then when birds go out into the wild they don't see a red, yellow, green or blue dish (that belongs to someone's cat or dog) in a back yard and identify it as their familiar food source.
- Try to discourage people from putting out wild bird seed. A container of water, out of range of domestic pets, is a much better option for caring for our wild birds.
- Wild bird seed has a good percentage of seed not eaten by birds, even the large species. Cockatiel mix, or combination of budgie and canary mix means better nutrition and no waste with our birds..
- Feeding such foods as mince to wild birds can lead to ill health in many forms. Leg fractures can also result from this practice. Our wildlife have specific dietary needs.
- Provide water dishes wide enough for the bird in care...this needs to be at least twice the length of the beak. A narrow deep dish is not suitable for a kookaburra.
- Iodine is the choice for wounds. Bathing with saline and use of iodine are tried and true treatments. Iodine has very valuable antiviral properties. Teatree oil is not recommended. Oils are detrimental.
- It is not uncommon to have nestling birds in care die from starvation. 80—100gram birds need at least 6 feeds a day, and may well die of starvation on 4 feeds a day. Once over 150 grams birds will survive on just 4 feeds a day. Of course, all species need to be correctly identified for dietary requirements.
- I particularly liked this idea of how to encourage rehabilitating wild birds to feed in captivity: In a tray, place live mealworms on the bottom, and then place the thawed out frozen crickets or grasshoppers on top of the wriggling mealworms. The insects look like they are moving and the bird will be more inclined to eat them.
- When there is a good supply of grasshoppers and crickets, they can be caught and frozen for later feeding to birds that come into care.
- Bandages on birds limbs: Change every 3 days to prevent joint arthritis.
- If undigested bird seeds are seen in bird faeces, then there is a malabsorption problem. Cockatiels especially are very prone to Avian Gastric Yeast (known also as Megabacteria).
- Kingfishers require a very dense amount of foliage in their cage—so you can hardly see the bird!

**T**hank you as always to our wonderful vets on the Sunshine Coast. After picking up a very badly injured joey on the road recently, I was able to get it to a nearby vet and euthanased within half an hour of the phone call to the hotline. The time that our vets donate to our wildlife is so appreciated.

That is why we pick up injured and orphaned animals asap. Wildlife also need to be picked up from vets as soon as possible.....those first hours can mean the life or death of an animal.

People that are used to dealing with a particular species know the signs others may miss, so if wildlife can be picked up and assessed by an experienced carer immediately, it will often mean a happier outcome for all concerned..



**F**or grey kangaroo carers, the Australian Wildlife Hospital is offering a preventative measure against coccidiosis.

This involves taking the joey to the AWH at first contact with grass, suggested weight around 1-2 kg, to receive a plasma transfusion. The procedure takes approximately two hours, with the joey being able to return home the same day.

I remember going to a workshop run by Enid Latham over ten years ago where the procedure was explained, and this seemed very successful when they performed it down at Dubbo Plains Zoo, but of course the practicalities of expecting our vets to carry out this process on our eastern grey kangaroos was an issue. I certainly wouldn't have asked any of our vets to do this. They are overworked and underpaid as it is when it comes to wildlife!

Though the success rate of this procedure has been debated, I would certainly consider it if I was in an area where a large number of grey kangaroos came into care, and I had had greys with cocci before.

Please contact the AWH and speak to Claude Lacasse if you would like to be involved in this prophylactic measure. Appointments need to be made in advance to guarantee that plasma is available from an adult kangaroo at the time.

Our thanks to Claude at the Australian wildlife Hospital for offering this service.

**T**he question of feeding wattle to our possums comes up from time to time. I remember the following advise from our Guru Lyndall!

The reason we are cautious on recommending wattle for possums or gliders is:

1) carers don't know which of the over 900 variety of wattles in Australia they are giving the animal, and 2) animals in captivity don't have the freedom to select their own feed source from the whole of the forest.

In the wild, marsupial plant eaters smell the plants and they have the unique ability to be able to detect the toxin levels. If the plant toxins are high, they will not eat the plant. All eucalyptus have similiar toxic compounds and that is why with koalas the carers will provide them always with at least 3 different types. Then they can select what to eat. (Same with ringtails) The toxicity levels change seasonally, so a plant that is toxic in summer may not be in winter. The aborigines have specific ways to deal with the toxicity if they want to eat Acacia. Sometimes they will boil it, beat it up then soak it or leave it completely alone, depending on the species. Each plant also has the toxic compounds in different parts. You may with one species be quite safe in eating the seeds but if you eat the leaves you will probably die. In others the bark may be toxic. The signs for Acacia poisoning are generally extreme paralysis in the legs, constant body spasms and sometimes frothing at the mouth. The secret for feeding our wildlife possum species is to feed as big a variety of leaves, on varying sized branches, as you can.....Donna

**Reminder:** On checking animals on the roadside, mark them with something like 'fluoro' paint or similar, so other concerned people know the animal has been checked for pouch young etc.

Be aware of own safety near busy roads.

**WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS.**

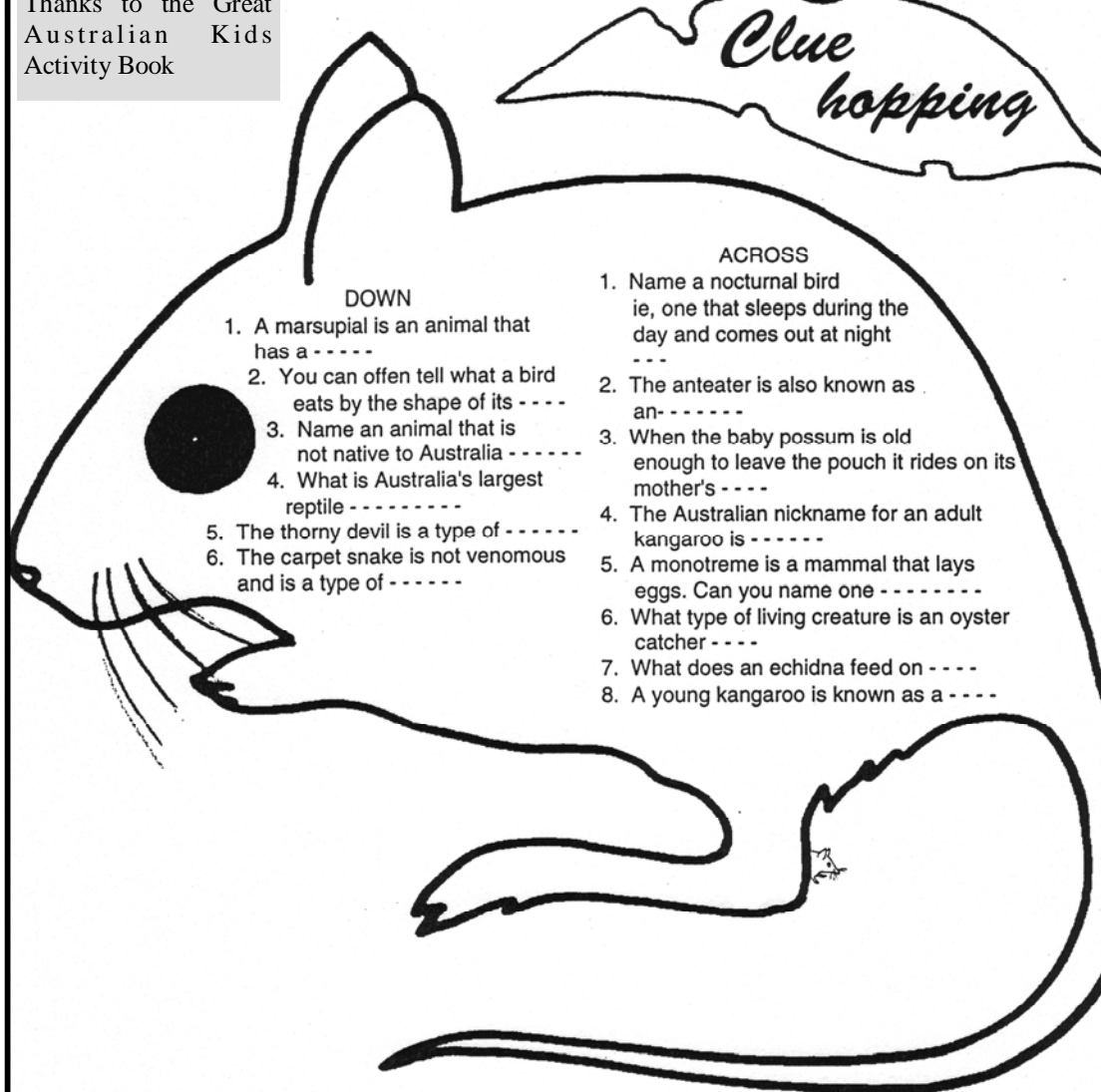
I am sure you will have a long and happy association with WILVOS.

You have joined just in time for great workshops with Dr Derek Spielman. I still refer to a study guide from 1998 with subjects on "Anatomy & Physiology of Monotremes & Marsupials", "Nutrition & Diet" and "Veterinary Care of Kangaroos & Possums" by Derek Spielman...the list goes on.

We have a wonderful list of subjects to listen to on the weekend of 24th and 25th July.



# Clue hopping

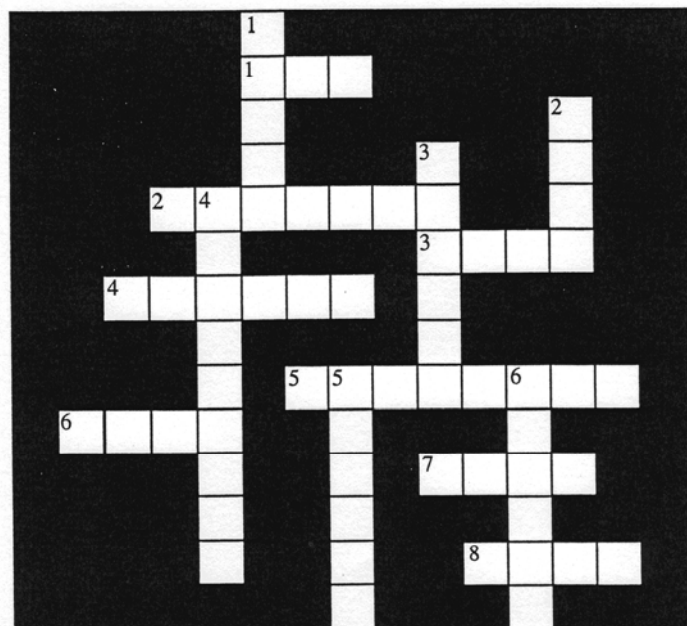


## DOWN

1. A marsupial is an animal that has a -----
2. You can often tell what a bird eats by the shape of its -----
3. Name an animal that is not native to Australia -----
4. What is Australia's largest reptile -----
5. The thorny devil is a type of -----
6. The carpet snake is not venomous and is a type of -----

## ACROSS

1. Name a nocturnal bird ie, one that sleeps during the day and comes out at night -----
2. The anteater is also known as an -----
3. When the baby possum is old enough to leave the pouch it rides on its mother's -----
4. The Australian nickname for an adult kangaroo is -----
5. A monotreme is a mammal that lays eggs. Can you name one -----
6. What type of living creature is an oyster catcher -----
7. What does an echidna feed on -----
8. A young kangaroo is known as a -----



## FACT

Butterflies are unable to fly until their flight muscles reach a temperature of 30 degrees celsius which is why you sometimes see them basking in the sun.

*"Goals: There's no telling what you can do when you get inspired by them. There's no telling what you can do when you believe in them. There's no telling what you can do when you act upon them."*

Jim Rohn

**S**adly we have had no one step up to take over Lainie Adams' great project of car marshalling at the Eumundi Markets. I see Rosemary do so much work and preparation before loading up her car and rounding up helpers to man fundraising stalls for a whole day. They may raise less money than can be earned by a few hours work from a few people every month or so at car marshalling at the Markets.

Volunteering is a dying art!

If you haven't heard about this call Lainie on 54457792 or email: adelain@optusnet.com.au

**WONDERING HOW TO DO YOUR FAUNA AND TELEPHONE RETURNS ELECTRONICALLY??**  
Send an email to [returns@wilvos.org.au](mailto:returns@wilvos.org.au) and ask for the template to be emailed to you. Save this on to your desktop and everytime you begin a new one for the month, say in August, go up to File and Save as....in My Documents, with a file name of Fauna Return August 2010. That way the template will remain blank and you will have your returns all in one folder. Email if any problems or queries.

This is such a good website for identification of local insects, Peter Chew's [www.brisbaneinsects.com](http://www.brisbaneinsects.com)  
Another excellent site for invertebrate wildlife is Nick Monaghan's [www.lifeunseen.com](http://www.lifeunseen.com)

In the last newsletter I recommended against using an 8 litre bucket for baby birds, instead suggesting an icecream container or hanging basket. Well, I am so glad people read the newsletter! I had a call from a lady telling me of this poster, which describes how to use the 8 litre (2 gallon) bucket correctly. Unfortunately, people were just hanging the bucket up and expecting the parents to fly down inside to feed the young. It is imperative to make drain holes, and install the stick, as described, so birds can enter and leave.

[www.currumbin-sanctuary.org.au](http://www.currumbin-sanctuary.org.au)  
Thank you for this information.

# HAVE YOU FOUND A BABY BIRD?



## Identification

Not all baby birds are raised in a nest (altricial), some are ready to take on the world the day they are born (precocial). Seek advice to correctly identify a baby bird before placing it in a make shift nest.

## Featherless

I have no feathers to keep me warm, if mum and dad do not return soon, I will need to be taken into care. Please keep me warm on transport to a Wildlife Hospital or Veterinary Clinic.

## Fledgling

I have just left the nest and I am learning to fly under the watchful eye of mum and dad. I am on the ground for a reason, so please do not "rescue" me unless I am in danger; in this case place me on a branch for safety.

## Kidnapping

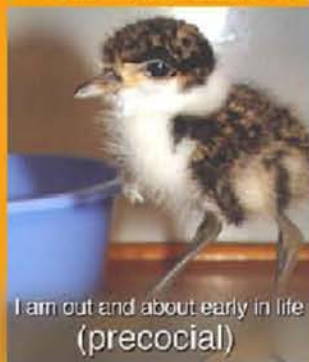
Do not take me from my parents, they can teach me all the lessons and survival skills I need to know as a bird; how to fly, what food to eat, how to find food and how to avoid predators. So please do not rescue me unless I am in danger, in this case place me on a branch for safety.

## Veterinarian

If I am sick, injured or have been in a cat or dog's mouth I will need Veterinary attention. Please keep me warm on transport to a Wildlife Hospital or Veterinary Clinic.

## Legislation

Under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992, it is illegal to take protected wildlife from the wild. Registered carers can help, contact your local wildlife group or wildlife hospital.



I am out and about early in life  
(precocial)



I am raised in a nest  
(altricial)

# 4

## EASY STEPS TO MAKING A NEW HOME

1. If the bird is really young and has soft and fluffy down instead of feathers and you are not able to place it in its original nest, then you need to make a new home using a bucket, (approx 40 - 50 cm deep) with holes punched in the bottom for drainage.
2. Put in a layer of soft leaves or grass. Place a stick (about 60 cm long) in the bucket and secure it into one of the drainage holes, so the parents and baby bird can get in and out.
3. Hang bucket head height in a leafy protected area, away from direct sunlight and as close as possible to where you found it. Mum and Dad do not mind if we are in a different tree or if the baby has been handled by a human.
4. Watch from a distance to make sure the parents return to feed the baby. If the new home is disturbed, this may take hours. If the parents do not return by dark, we will need to go into care.

# 1



# 2



# 3



# 4





# Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. Management Team 2009/10

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

\*Chairperson: Sylvia Whiting 54 467760

\*Vice Chair: Donna Anthony 54 467049 / 0413 861757  
Jill Underdown 54 457017

\*Secretary: Jill Underdown 54 457017

\*Treasurer: Annette Buchanan 54 421734

email: membershipwilvos@iprimus.com.au

email: donnalenoeranthony@hotmail.com

email: wilvos@iprimus.com.au

email: wilvos@iprimus.com.au

email: abbk@inet.net.au

Community Awareness: Roslyn Leslie 54 850056 / 0409 598437  
(Southern Region) Susan Ivison 54 229742

email: pomonarozzie@bigpond.com

email: wseivison@aol.com

Co-Ordinators: Birds: Heather McMurray 54 149196

Mammals: Lynn Moye 0438 765946

Reptiles: Jill Zimmerman 54781315 0411558827

Raptors: Jackie Fraser 54999057

email: heth\_n\_oz@hotmail.com

email: jaslynn2@hotmail.com

email: wild\_spirit5@yahoo.com.au

Fauna/Telephone Returns Officer: Sammy Ringer 54943812 0410 833981 email: returns@wilvos.org.au  
Assistant Returns Officer: Rebecca Little 0415 831688

Fundraising Officer/Stalls Co-Ordinator :

a. Rosemary Dax 54 485215

b. Desley Salmon 54 961824 / 0407 240365

c. Lainie Adams 54457792

email: jdj34sal@bigpond.com

email: adelain@optusnet.com.au

Grants Application Officer : Jenny Gallagher 54 727632

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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: donnalenoeranthony@hotmail.com

Phone Roster Secretaries: Rosemary Dax 54 485215

Kerrie Bunney 54 415827

email: kerrie.bunney@bigpond.com

**(If you can't do your rostered time—either swap or find someone else to do the shift. In other words— 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 54438315

email: psmith01@hotmail.com

Website Manager: Paul Smith 54438315

email: psmith01@hotmail.com

Workshop Education Co-ordinator: Jane Little 54 728773

email: janelittle@gmail.com

**P**lease ask for WILVOS brochures, fridge magnets and car stickers when you come to workshops. We always have a supply there.

It is a good idea to hand out brochures and fridge magnets when you go for a rescue/pick up of native animals.

Shopping is not one of my favourite activities, so it makes me feel better if I can use my IGA keytag and know I am contributing to our wildlife when I shop. Ask for these at your workshops.

Of course, Dr Derek Spielman can't cover all these subjects for the weekend, but this is suggested for the days:

## **SATURDAY: 24th July 2010**

1. Introduction to anatomy and physiology
2. First aid for wildlife
3. Antibiotic misuse
4. Rat lungworm..tawneys... possums
5. Sarcoptes scabiei ...in possums
6. Genetic aspects of releasing wildlife.
7. Practical aspects of euthanasia

## **SUNDAY: 25th July 2010**

1. Introduction to disease
2. Evolution of disease and disease resistance
3. Introduction to basic immunity
4. Introduction to basic nutrition and digestion
5. Macropod Diseases
6. Practical aspects of post mortem examination
7. The value of post mortem examination and histopathology to diagnosing wildlife disease

## **FAUNA & TELEPHONE RETURNS**

**I** hope everyone has these in so that the end of the year reports can be finalized for the WILVOS Annual Report.

These statistics are so important for future of our wildlife and our environment, for information in new development, and in accessing suitable grants.

**MANY MANY THANKS FROM OUR WILDLIFE FOR ALL THE HELP FROM ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS OVER THE PAST 2009/2010 YEAR.**

*There are so many ways of helping our wildlife and they are all valuable and appreciated.*

*Our phone roster volunteers have again done a great job throughout the year...it is the first step in saving our wildlife and that we can still have a phone line, manned by a 'real' person, for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year is a credit to you all.*

*A special 'thank you' to Bob Whiting for all the possum and glider boxes he has so well constructed.*

The Suncoast Social Dance Club are once again passing on their dance door takings, on 31st July, to WILVOS in exchange for our wonderful culinary skills (which will provide supper), our waitressing skills and manning the door. WILVOS also provide the door prizes. Rosemary would like help in the form of food or labour! Please call Rosemary on 54485215.

**Beautiful pure honey \$6 for a 1kg tub. Phone Lesley Rogers 54762 182 Nambour.**

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

Print Post approved  
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Wilvos Wildlife Whisperings  
**July 2010**



**SURFACE  
MAIL**

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PAID  
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**FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN  
DR DEREK SPIELMANS WILDLIFE WORK**

**[www.waif.org.au](http://www.waif.org.au)**

The Wildlife Assistance & Information Inc website is well worth reading, especially the newsletters. It will help you to realize how privileged we are to have this wildlife veterinarian speak on so many topics at our WILVOS workshops on 24th/25th July, 2010.

**MILK FORMULA & FOOD**

Milk Powder, Teats, Bottles, Bags for possums and macropods. Phone or email Donna.

Mooloolaba Aquarium & Aviary Centre gives 25% discount to WILVOS for native animal food.

Mooloolah Produce (Livestock & Pet Supplies) Shop 2 Connection Rd Mooloolah Valley offer 5% discount.

Please show your Membership Card. If shops are not listed here, they may still give a discount.

The best food we can give our animals is what they would be eating in the wild.

**Supplements are just that.**