



# WILVOS WILDLIFE WHISPERINGS



**FEBRUARY 2011**

*Please return  
workshop confirmation  
forms ASAP.....*



Love those lilly pilly leaves  
and fruits!

Thank you so much to  
Sheila and Ashley  
Robinson for their  
donation of dinner  
vouchers for raffles and  
prizes for WILVOS  
fundraising dances.

## **PROJECT FOR 2011**

Would everyone like to  
make themselves a name  
tag with LARGE printing,  
stating their christian and  
surname....decorated with  
wildlife of course!

Then bring them to  
workshops. WILVOS do  
have cases for them if you  
don't have any.

This would mean one less  
job to do on workshop  
days, and it helps everyone  
to put a name to a face!

**WILVOS and friends.....**welcome to another year of wildlife and environmental caring.

It has been a tough beginning to a new year. Our hearts go out to all those affected by the tragedies over the past months. It has been an unprecedented period of disasters for all Australia. I can't begin to imagine the horrors that have been experienced.

Thank you to our lovely members who responded to my emails for help for individuals that I knew of who were in need of either wildlife caring equipment or financial assistance at a time when so much was lost. Thank you too to the QWRC for the help they have given to wildlife carers who were often isolated and desperate for assistance.

WILVOS have also contributed financially to help those impacted by the floods and cyclones in Queensland. I hope we have seen the last of disasters for 2011, but it is still early in the year and I think vigilance will be necessary over the coming months.

It is also important to support our fellow Australians by buying Australian products. By purchasing our own produce, even if a little more expensive, it is not only the needy farmers that are helped, but all the follow-on businesses, and their staff, whether it be transport companies, or our local wholesalers and retailers.

Tourism industries are also going to be in need of our support, so travel up the coast of Queensland or inland to spread those dollars around where they are so desperately needed!

I am so happy to see the response to our native bee workshop with legend Rob Raabe. I didn't know how fascinating these little creatures were until I attended one of Bob's native bee workshops. We already have had many bookings from members of the community who don't want to miss this event. The macropod workshop with Dr Tim Portas has also been marked on some calendars for months! No-one wants to miss this very educational workshop. The best to all for 2011. Happy caring and learning.....**Donna**

**PH: 0413 861757 donnalenoanthony@hotmail.com**

*PS: For those who have sent in Facebook requests to me. I am not ignoring everyone—I just don't get to it. I only use it to put on videos of my grandkids when we go to horseriding on Friday afternoons, because the videos are too big to email to them. So sorry, you just have to email me!*

## RETURNS—notes from Kerrie on electronic return forms.



**Returns Officers:** Tammy Donlen - Postal Telephone Returns  
Sammy Ringer – Electronic Telephone Returns  
Zoe Jung – Postal Fauna Returns  
Kerrie Bunney – Electronic Fauna Returns



**PLEASE** everyone, including CARERS, put telephone calls, about wildlife that doesn't actually come into care, on a Telephone Return (regardless of what the old Fauna Returns say!). **Reason:** Calls placed on a Fauna Return just look like incomplete fauna returns, and there is no way for a poor data 'inputter' like me to determine if it's just a call for advice. Slightly upgraded Fauna & Telephone forms are included with this Newsletter—no change other than upgraded explanation of instructions so please read through carefully.

A bit of an explanation about how the Returns are analysed and why: When we do the stats we record how many animals have come into care through our amazing Hotline, how many are released, have died or were euthanased in any given month which indicates the ebb and flow of animals coming through WILVOS on a yearly basis. With the Animal ID we can follow an animal's progress, ie, which month it came in, which location it came from, which month it was transferred to another carer, how many carers it has been cared for by, when released and, importantly, *why*. This information can lead us to the needs of specific animal species and areas in need of more carers, etc. It also demonstrates just how much caring of our precious wildlife we, our wonderful organization achieves, and if it is not recorded we cannot gain recognition of it. **ALSO**, it is a **REQUIREMENT** of the EPA that we carry out this type of efficient record keeping and reporting. So let's be professional and show other organisations just how it's done!

If you have any queries or conundrums or brilliant ideas please **DO** call me, Kerrie Bunney, on 5441 5827 or email: [kerrie.bunney@bigpond.com](mailto:kerrie.bunney@bigpond.com).

Some interesting info: an extract of some recordings since July, 2010:

84 Common Ringtail Possums

42 Common Brushtail Possums

14 Rainbow Lorikeets

24 Tawny Frogmouths

7 Birds – if a bird comes into your care it essential you identify it!

10 Pigeons – what kind?



**Please carers, send in your returns and get the recognition you deserve....thanks...Kerrie**

I recently had a call from a local TV station about Wicked Camper's van stickers.

I can't for the life of me work out the mentality, or total lack of it, of Wicked Campers for having bumper stickers saying "**Kangaroos, run the .....s over**".

I would suggest they substitute the word 'kangaroos' with 'John Webb', the founder of Wicked Campers, who lamely suggested that the sticker was to stop drivers from swerving and rolling their vehicles. Maybe he doesn't realize that people are also killed and invalidated by running into kangaroos....or the many feral species for that matter!

Needless, to say I organized Sylvia to do that interview. My comments may not have been allowable on television.

I have as good a sense of humour as the next person, but promoting animal cruelty is not humorous. Our native wildlife have suffered enough lately. ....Donna



**A**fter seeing how chooks cleared up the ticks in another macropod carer's paddock, I acquired two lovely Frizzles.

I can now walk in my paddock barefooted without attracting scores of ticks.

I did get a rooster and a hen, (Brad & Angelina) and after enjoying the daily egg, Angelina has now decided to sit on one lone egg! Guess I'll have a cute chicken next.

Anyone wanting Frizzle chooks I can put you on to a reputable breeder!.....Donna

## RETURNS—notes from Zoe Jung on postal fauna return forms



**RECORD KEEPING:** Please read carefully: This is to ensure that records for our organization become as uniform and as accessible as possible no matter how many members we are lucky enough to have.

It is **imperative** that information received in the *fauna* and *telephone* returns be as accurate as possible. Please read the headings in each column carefully to make sure that the information you record there correlates to the specific title of the column you are filling with data. This will ensure that the vital statistical information recorded is **relevant** for committing to the online system.

This includes using the columns for the information that is **specifically** requested on the form.

Please ensure that you use **simple printed writing**, not *running writing*. If this means you have to write it all in capitals, that's OK. Make your information count by keeping it **legible** to others. This means printing clearly. Keep your information short e.g. if you wish to record visible signs of injury use a general term like leg **trauma**, eye trauma or car trauma.

\* Remember, in your own personal records, that you should be making for your own reference material, you can be as lengthy as you wish in the description of injury and cause.

Please do not send ascension forms and medication forms from the Australian Wildlife Hospital or other vet practices with your fauna returns. This is information that you should keep in your own record system for future reference.

Following these simple tips teaches vital skills in keeping records of the animals in your care.

### **GENERAL RECORD KEEPING TIPS: Starting your own method;**

Sometimes it can get very hectic in a wildlife carer's life which can mean that record keeping may suffer. If you create a simple system that allows you to access your information easily it won't become as big a chore to record in it. Be your own secretary and boss!

Set aside a drawer to put all your files in and keep it just for this purpose.

Perhaps you might use a large blank paged note book for your own information and record keeping. Something that you can paste notes into and write on as needed.

Being as diligent as possible and starting a routine by adding to your records each time new information is created rather than letting it pile up does really help to make the process easier to do on a regular basis.

Using your own system regularly and often for your personal files of information makes it easier to create that routine in adding new data.

Get into the habit of using dates and times as this helps enormously to pinpoint any specific information you would like to locate and prevents the loss of your recorded data.

You can make it as personal in your files as you like, adding photos and note bubbles etc or as uncomplicated and simple, with a brief sentence or description. Just remember to keep the records readable and dated.

Your cooperation is absolutely appreciated by other members, thanks for taking the time to read this....Zoe

## **.and more on RETURNS—notes from Sammy Ringer on electronic telephone returns.**

Abbreviations: Abbr: I enter the phone returns – a job that can be sad, humorous, and eye-opening all at the same time.

One thing I've noticed is that some 'hotties' (our hotline phone roster volunteers) take a LOT of time explaining the situation of the animal in question. This is understandable—as people are talking to you, you make notes. They often make for good reading – but it also takes up a lot of paper and time.

When I transcribe the 'Injury or cause' to the database, I use abbreviations.

Here are some I use. You may like to use them yourself, and it will help us both.



MOP Member of public

Advice - when you give advice rather than referring caller to a carer. These **always** go on telephone returns.

Barbed wire: most particularly flying foxes but can be any animal caught in barbed wire

Dog attack, Cat attack: self explanatory

HBC: hit by car

Injured: when an animal is found that is injured in any way.

OON or On Ground: Fell out of nest or found on the ground (especially when pertaining to young birds)

Removal: when someone wants a snake or possum (or anything!) removed.

Window: when a bird hits a window.

You will no doubt come up with even more but, meanwhile, you may think about using these when you fill in your returns.....Sammy





# WOW

.....THIS IS ONE  
IMPRESSIVE BAR-B-Q  
TRAILER!!! THANK  
YOU TO.....

**ING DIRECT**  
It's your money

..our lovely Rosemary Dax can now rest from lugging around sausages, bread, onions and a ton of equipment in her little car. Everything can go straight into the trailer. Karl and Heather now have the job!

**ING DIRECT**  
Making over  
our Community



**ING DIRECT**  
It's your money

How did we manage to get this amazing trailer which is not only a fundraising machine, but an incredible travelling advertisement for WILVOS also??? WILVOS thank Karl Gallant—yes, and I was indignantly told that those racks at the top are not for surfboards...but for the shade attachment!



**SAUSAGE SIZZLES  
HERE WE COME!**



Karl was busy doing his banking when he read about ING Direct's project of "Making over our Community". Industrious fellow that he is, and not one to miss out on an impromptu opportunity, Karl put in a 'spur-of-the-moment' submission for a grant for a bar-b-q trailer and for upgrading our website.

What a surprise approximately two months later when \$10,000 was approved for the projects.

Karl followed up with the design and building of this great trailer, and is organizing the website upgrade.

## "WILVO's in the Digital Age"

In the next month or so you will see some changes to the WILVO's web site. We will be adding more functionality, such as online donation acceptance, online membership payments, discussion boards, chat facility, species notes/subject material, seminar dates/times to name a few. A majority of this info will be in a "Members Only" area to maintain our best practice of Wildlife Rehabilitation and to maintain the integrity of our members training in line with government requirements.

The public will have access to our basic information such as newsletters, contact details and donation links— just enough so they have an insight of what we do. Given that the site can be seen around the world, this will give anyone the ability to make a donation from anywhere at anytime at the click of a mouse.

Eventually, we will be able to lodge our monthly returns via our individual logins (if we choose) to enable us to hold the information in a digital form so we can draw upon instantaneous statistics of our precious wildlife.

Please be patient during this transition and be excited about what we are doing with the web site. I will be prioritising the order in which the content and functions will be added to the site to maintain continuity and ensure a smooth transition.

For those members without internet access you wont be forgotten. The streamlining and automation of procedures for the web site will flow onto the current manual procedures currently being performed so everyone, including the wildlife, will eventually see the benefits.

Stay tuned!!!!

Regards,

Karl Gallant



**Queensland Injectors Health Network (QIHN) ARE VERY GENEROUSLY HOLDING A FUNDRAISER FOR WILVOS TO HELP FLOOD AFFECTED WILDLIFE.** The long-term problems associated with these disaster affected wildlife are considerable. The loss of food supply means many species will be starving. The cassowaries in North Queensland are a prime example—they suffered after Cyclone Larry, and now their food supply is devastated again. They are rocketing towards extinction unless they receive assistance now and in future years.

**SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 10AM TO 2PM  
PIERCE PARK 6TH AVENUE COTTON TREE  
(OPPOSITE MACDONALDS)**

**FUN ACTIVITIES, STALLS, JUMPING  
CASTLE, FACE PAINTING,, SAUSAGE  
SIZZLE SERVED FROM THE  
'TRENDY TRAILER'!**

**Come along and help us help our Australian native  
wildlife. Those who can help on the day, please call Lynn  
Moye on 0438 765946**

The WILVOS humidicribs have been a wonderful help for those with very small animals. These are available for loan when necessary.

For milk formula call Donna on 0413 861757

We would all like to wish Rosemary and Justin Dax the very best in their new home. I think that new phone number will soon be running hot with bird calls! I've already memorized the new number!

If the wild bird population look like they want to come and feed one of your orphaned birds in a cage, set up a perch at the side of the cage so the wild bird can be encouraged to sit there and feed the young.

Some people, no matter how old they get, never lose their beauty—they merely move it from their faces into their hearts.  
Martin Buxbaum

Please remember to be set up ready for wildlife calls. If not sure what is necessary, contact an experienced carer to confirm what you need. Also you may be able to buy a small quantity of necessary food supplies from them to have on hand when birds come into care.

The "Max" cages are invaluable...contact Sylvia for purchase of these.....don't forget to line the cages with shade cloth to prevent feather damage with birds.

Crazy Clarkes in Nambour have plastic carry baskets in stock at the moment. These can be lined with a cot sheet or similar cloth to prevent beaks or feet getting caught.

Yes, I know I am always going on about cat aviaries to protect both the cats and the wildlife, but here is another good website....Donna

<http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/pets/all-about-cats/diy-cat-enclosure-and-fencing>



**O**ur wildlife have had a tough struggle over the past months with the extreme weather conditions. I have had members of the public ring and ask how they can help the native populations.

Shelters and nesting boxes are helpful, but the main problem is lack of food. I am usually an advocate for NOT feeding wildlife (suggesting instead that fresh water be provided daily, well up out of the reach of predators, if people feel the need to help). Nevertheless, though no shortage of water, there has been a lack of native fruits, nectar, and insects with the constant rain. This makes it difficult for animals, especially when feeding young. There is barely enough for an adult bird or possum, let alone extra for the hungry little mouths that have to be fed.

People have kindly bought 'wet' lorikeet mix and fruit for the wild populations and this would have helped many animals. Feeding grain and seed mixes is not a good idea in the warm humid conditions as it soon ferments and becomes toxic.

WILVOS have had many animals come into care very underweight recently. It is tragic to think of our wildlife suffering in the bushfires, floods and cyclones. They need all the help they can get.

The date for the National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference has been set for 16th to 20th July 2012, in Townsville.

**Not to be missed, start saving now!  
Check out the website for papers at past  
Conferences [nwrc.com.au](http://nwrc.com.au)**

**P**lease weigh those possums—otherwise how do you know how much to feed them, or assess their weight gains as they are weaned and transition to total foliage. We do not wean them at 250grams—check with experienced carers for these and other details.

**D**on't forget to keep your native food receipts and when you spend more than \$100 in a 3 month period, post them in for a subsidy. Of course, to qualify for this you have to go through the WILVOS protocol of notifying co-ordinators on the arrival of animal, sending in fauna returns and going through the release program. This subsidy is still possible thanks to the Suncoast Social Dance Club, and to the amazing Rosemary Dax and helpers.

***Never mix your species!....Sammy Ringer***

It seems every season I have a new '*I'll never do that again...*' when it comes to wildlife. This season's height it's '*I'll never mix my species again!*' And I mean it!

3 fig birds, 2 koels, 5 microbats, 2 flying foxes, 9 magpies, 2 currawongs, 5 ringtails, 2 common brushtail possums

It's not the housing of this mixed lot (though that was a challenge), it's the food regime that had me frayed and frazzled. My mornings felt like a reality TV program featuring a mother of quintuplets.

Gather and wash food bowls, mix insectivore/mix meal, chop fruit, chop off heads of mealy worms, make flying fox formula, mix up Microbat smoothie, soak kibble, mix up the high protein fruit meal and the insectivore fruit meal...begin to feed.

Koels and Fig Birds first, to lower the sound level. Then the Maggies and Currawongs – and on down the list to the flying foxes, who take their own sweet time in drinking their bottle. Everyone (temporarily) full and quiet, rush into town to buy more fruit and mince and mealy worms and formula – oh yes! Some human food as well.

Back in time to clean cages, toilet the flying foxes, check the microbats' aviary temperature, clean out the possum aviary and check out the little girl with the gimpy leg, feed the Koels and Fig Birds again, toilet the flying foxes and wash their numerous momma rolls and blankets. Time to weigh them and measure their fore-arm.

Morning tea and time to start the feeding round once again. Then lunch time and I feed myself. By around 3pm, it's time to get on the road and gather up the leafy tip for the possums. They like the new growth on gums, lilly pillies, and a host of other natives as well as the native berries and a number of different flowers to cater for all tastes.

By 5 o'clock I have the possum food divided amongst the aviaries and have done a final bird feeding run. Time to chop off more mealy worm heads and gather the micros for their dinner. On with my TV headphones and watch the news as the Flying foxes slowly drink their bottles.

They sleep. The birds sleep. The microbats flutter. The possums munch. I sit. It's times like this I really appreciate take-away.

***Editors Note: We all need lessons from Sylvia Whiting. Take out the bats, throw in a few wallabies with all her possums and birds, plus her job and this would be a quiet time for her! I have to stay within my limitations. I am just not an organized 'Supermum'. I will try to be more organized in 2011....again!***

# Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. Management Team 2010/11

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

*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.*



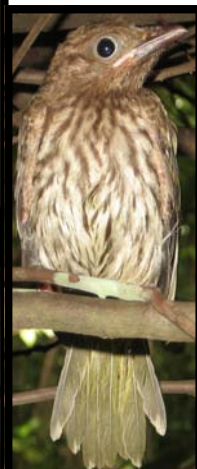
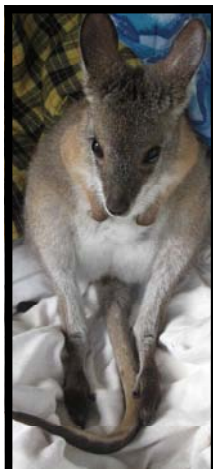
*If you can help in any way, please contact the relevant people...they always need help in some way!*

<b>*Chairperson:</b>	Sylvia Whiting	54 467760	email: membershipwilvos@iprimus.com.au
<b>*Vice Chair:</b>	Donna Anthony	0413 861757	email: donnalenoreanthony@hotmail.com
	Annette Buchanan	54 421734	email: abbk@inet.net.au
<b>*Secretary:</b>	Jill Underdown	54 457017	email: wilvos@iprimus.com.au
<b>*Treasurer:</b>	Annette Buchanan	54 421734	email: abbk@inet.net.au
<b>Community Awareness/Schools:</b>	Roslyn Leslie	54850056/0409598437	email: pomonarozzie@bigpond.com
<b>Co-Ordinators:</b>	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	
<b>Data Returns Co-Ordinator:</b>	Kerrie Bunney	54 415827	email: kerrie.bunney@bigpond.com
<b>Electronic Fauna Returns:</b>	Kerrie Bunney	54 415827	email: kerrie.bunney@bigpond.com
<b>Posted Fauna Returns:</b>	Zoe Jung	54 350164 / 0411129866	email: zoejung@hotmail.com
<b>Electronic Telephone Returns:</b>	Sammy Ringer	54943812/0410833981	email: returns@wilvos.org.au
<b>Posted Telephone Returns:</b>	Tammy Donlen	54469205 / 0402806568	email: donlen@hotmail.com
<b>Eumundi Carparking:</b>	Jane Little	54728773	email: janelittle@gmail.com
(Please call Jane if you can help out with this. It is fun, and you get good parking at the markets!)			
<b>Fundraising Officer/Stalls Co-Ordinators:</b>	a.	Rosemary Dax 54 754455	
	b.	Desley Salmon 54 961824 / 0407 240365	email: jdj34sal@bigpond.com
<b>Grants Application Officer:</b>	Zoe Jung	54 350164 / 0411129866	email: zoejung@hotmail.com
<b>Media PR Co-Ordinator:</b>	Donna Anthony	0413 861757	email: donnalenoreanthony@hotmail.com
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Sylvia Whiting	54 467760	email: membershipwilvos@iprimus.com.au
<b>Minute Secretary:</b>	Joyce Thompson	54 417658	email: joyglynn@bigpond.com
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Donna Anthony	0413 861757	email: donnalenoreanthony@hotmail.com
<b>Phone Co-Ordinators:</b>	Roster:	Rosemary Dax 54 754455	
		Tammy McGarry 54 720619	email: tammymcgarry@gmail.com
<b>Phone Training:</b>		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 754455 for her records.)			
<b>Release Officer:</b>	Paul Smith	54 438315	email: psmith01@hotmail.com
<b>I.T. Co-Ordinators:</b>	Paul Smith	54 438315	email: psmith01@hotmail.com
	Karl Gallant	54 149196	email: karl.gallant@ozemail.com.au
<b>Workshops Co-ordinator:</b>	Donna Anthony	0413 861757	email: donnalenoreanthony@hotmail.com

A special 'thank you' to all our Management Team members, and helpers. You are a loyal, hardworking bunch! Jill Underdown was a treasure and jumped in at very short notice to do the phone training at the last Induction/New Carer's Workshop....and what a stinking hot day it was. (I love having our workshops at the airconditioned hall in Windsor Road!) Vanessa helped Rae on the door, and Ramona has kindly offered to be the contact for workshop confirmations. All your help is much appreciated.

Tammy McGarry has done such a wonderful job for us, doing up the phone roster and just being so capable. She is now looking for someone to train in this position. If you can spare approximately 6 hours a month, Tammy is ready to show you the ropes so you can take over in June. Hands up please!

Our sincere sympathies to Roslyn on the loss of her sister, who she so beautifully described as her Sister, her Mother, and her Friend. Our thoughts are with you Rozzie.



THANKS TO TOM & LAURIE FOR INVITING US TO HAVE A STALL AGAIN AT THE ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLES IN NAMBOUR ON SATURDAY 5TH MARCH. WE CAN'T DO A SAUSAGE SIZZLE—I DON'T THINK THE OTHER FOOD VENDORS WANT TO COMPETE WITH THE WILVO CHEFS! IF YOU CAN HELP ON THE STALL CALL ROSEMARY.

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

Print Post approved  
PP424022/1446  
Wilvos Wildlife Whisperings  
**February 2011**

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**



**DON'T FORGET TO  
THROW OUT YOUR  
OLD CONTACT LIST.  
IF YOU DON'T  
RECEIVE ONE DATED  
FEBRUARY 2011 WITH  
THIS NEWSLETTER  
PLEASE RING SYLVIA  
ON 54 467760**

**I F Y O U  
W A N T T O  
C H A N G E  
D E T A I L S O N  
C O N T A C T  
L I S T P L E A S E  
C A L L  
S Y L V I A O N  
54 467760**

**IF YOUR NAME IS ON THE CONTACT LIST YOU  
HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PICK UP ALL  
WILDLIFE, OR ARRANGE THIS.  
YOU CAN RING THE COORDINATOR AND THE  
CARER CAN BE ORGANIZED LATER, BUT THE  
WILDLIFE NEEDS TO BE COLLECTED FROM  
THE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC OR THE VET  
ASAP.**

**If it is some cute furry little animal, it is not acceptable  
to care for this animal without first notifying the co-  
ordinator. Wildlife need up-to-date care.**

**WILVOS have to give wildlife the best of care from the  
moment that initial phone call is received on the hotline.**

The next Induction/New Carers Workshop is in May. Please contact Sylvia (who will be away for a few weeks in April) or Rae on 54 468973.