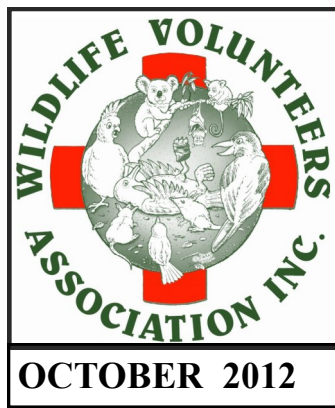


WILVOS

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



### LAST CHANCE!

Dr Peggy Rismiller's Echidna Workshop on Sunday 14th October 2012. Not to be missed!

If a reptile latches on to your finger and won't let go just put a small amount of hand sanitizing gel on its gums. Keep hands well clear so he doesn't latch onto the other one!

Thanks Martin Fingland. Let's hope we don't need that tip.

As always, everyone totally enjoyed Martin's Reptile Workshop.



This echidna was spotted at Kangaroo Island a few years ago, as we drove along one of the back roads. Four of us piled out of the car to admire the lovely gold colouring.

One of the most fascinating Australian native animals!



Swamp wallabies, "Declan" and "Bossy Boots" are best of mates now after "Bossy Boots" spent a week 'headlocking' every wallaby in Donna's yard. Though the youngest, he is the 'King'!

I 'wuv' you

A tip from Jill our Reptile Co-Ordinator. Wrap fingers/toes if treating snake bite. When bandaging, the first thing a patient does is wiggle them and the idea is to "immobilize" the limbs.

Unless you're willing to have a go, fail miserably, and have another go, success won't happen.. Phillip Adams - journalist



For great reading subscribe to Wildlife Secrets  
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Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc

PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560.

Ph: 07 54 416200

[www.wilvos.org.au](http://www.wilvos.org.au)

WILDLIFE SECRETS

## WEIGH YOUR WILDLIFE

How do you know how much to feed your marsupials if you don't weigh them? It is important to feed the correct amount of formula. If we get lackadaisical on this, our animals will end up with diarrhoea, thrush and other problems.

Possums and gliders suddenly go from learning to drink to being pigs. Oh dear, diarrhoea happens! Yes I have just made this mistake with one of my little treasures. Not being tough enough on him and keeping him to his limit!

If possums do develop runny poos for this reason, and we usually know when we have made a mistake, cut them back to 10% formula for the 24 hour period, give water in between day feeds and offer a good variety of native fresh new leafy after each feed.

Remember, dehydration causes organ damage, and kills.



These medicine spoons are great for feeding/holding milk for possums, especially in winter time.

They stand up in the cup of hot water and it is easy to check just how much is taken at each 'slurp'!

The dropper is very handy also.

Thanks Helen Minton for passing on that tip.

**A**s I mentioned in the last newsletter—our wildlife cannot digest their food and put on weight unless they are kept at the correct temperature. It is such a big help to have the min and max alert settings on a thermometer. The humidity reading is a big help with pinkies for care of their skin. No matter what heating source you use—these thermometers are still the most important piece of caring equipment you can have.

**Contact Warm A Pet Ph: (03) 95441471 Fax: (03) 95446789 Email: [sales@warmapet.com.au](mailto:sales@warmapet.com.au)**

I have just had reason to contact this company when I had a problem with my heat pad.. Their aftersales service is amazing. They are wonderful people to deal with. Their heatpads and thermometers are reasonably priced and come with a guarantee that means something.



A good shrub to grow. Everything loves it.  
Callistemon Wildness White



**Group Hug at Cooroy Community Kindy!!!** Roslyn, our Community Awareness Officer wins the childrens' hearts every time!

Those teachings about wildlife and responsible pet ownership will make a difference to the future of our native animals.

**A**ir sac mites are tiny rare black mites that live in the air sacs of birds. Sometimes they can be observed in the mouth. The bird's breathing can be affected when there is heavy infestation. Veterinarians may treat with an anthelmintic such as ivermectin.

They are very interesting little characters to look at under the microscope!

**C**heck out Tasmania's great free online magazine. The latest issue has the most incredible photographs of wildlife—especially the wombat's rear view on the front cover of the June edition! Lovely to meet Andrea at the Conference.

[www.wildliferescuemagazine.com.au](http://www.wildliferescuemagazine.com.au)

**D**on't forget to disinfect hands **before** and **after** use of disposable gloves. They provide the perfect growing environment for bacteria

If you want to update your details for Julie for the phone roster/Sylvia for the Contact List *please be specific. Can you still do pick ups, help with fundraising, phones???*

**T**he inside bowls of discarded slow cookers make great water containers. The water remains cool and the height of the bowl prevent toads from getting into the water.



Oh glorious spring you are finally here, time to pack away the long sleeves and bring out the singlets. What is the best thing about spring other than the warmer temperature? It is breeding season for many fauna species.

One of my most favourite species to observe there breeding behaviour is the Short beaked echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*).

The Echidna along with the Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) is an Australian mammal species that lay eggs. This makes them one of the last surviving representatives of the monotremes (mammals that lay eggs in the sub-class Prototheria), therefore they are one of the major subdivisions of mammals; the other subdivisions are marsupials ([Metatheria](#)) and placental mammals ([Eutheria](#)).

The usual breeding cycle for Echidnas is from the end of June to mid-September. A unique characteristic behavioural manner displayed by echidnas during the breeding season is the formation of 'specie trains'. The sexually active males roam in search for a female, this is how the 'specie trains' are formulated. The trains can consist of two to ten male echidnas normally with the youngest male at the end of the train and the oldest leading the way. The train of male Echidnas will be formulated to follow just one female in oestrus. Girl power; am I right ladies! During the breeding season males being males are extremely busy and may join several separate trains.

After breeding a female will lay a single egg, which is incubated in the mother's backward facing pouch and will take around ten days to hatch. Echidna eggs are round to slightly oval in shape and 13–16 mm long, with a soft, leathery shell.

When hatched, the young echidna is the size of a jelly bean (so small but so cute) around 1.45cm in length, weighing only 380mg.

An odd but interesting fact about female Echidnas is that they do not have teats. Remarkable, but how do they feed their young milk without teats? Well the female has many mammary glands in her pouch along her abdomen. The milk then gathers in a groove at the bottom end of her abdomen near the pouch for her young to suckle the milk up (clever body anatomy).

The young are carried in the mothers pouch for around three months. However during the three month pouch rearing time the mother will leave her young in a ground burrow on occasions when searching for food.

What else is interesting about Echidna's?

They have a high level tolerance to carbon dioxide and lack of oxygen, perfect for ground burrowing fauna.

Lack weapons for fighting, instead they curl into a ball and deter predators with their spines.

Lack sweat glands hence why they cannot secrete sweat so therefore Echidna's are not a fan of high temperatures and will avoid daytime ventures if the temperature is too hot.

If need be Echidna's can and will swim to the other side of a dam.

Their snouts have electroreceptors to help perceive what is within their surroundings, pretty handy tool to have in the dark.

They have a cloaca which is one passage/opening for faeces, urine and reproductive organs to utilise.

Echidnas also slip into a deep torpor during the winter time to save energy and reduce their metabolism before re-emerging once again when the temperature increases.

Aren't they fascinating creatures! If only we had some of the Echidna's abilities, I would love to sense things in the dark before falling over them. Thank you for reading Natalie May's interesting wildlife facts we will meet again in a few months.

#### References

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M.Griffith 1968, 'Echidnas' in *International Series of Monographs in Pure and Applied Biology*, Zoology Division, vol 38, Pergamon Press, Sydney.

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R.Strahan 1995, *The Mammals of Australia*, Reed Books, Sydney.



(Natalie May in action tracking, saving, and relocating *Tachyglossus aculeatus* in Western Australia).

**The 2012 Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference** held in Townsville in July was a great educational experience.

It was great to go there with Sylvia, so we could have the rare chance to sit and chat about wildlife. Back home it is usually just frantic emergency wildlife visits to each other's houses. On arrival at our hotel Sylvia and I were advised that there was no hot water. I don't think I will ever be allowed make accommodation bookings again.

Many years ago at the Gold Coast Wildlife Conference I managed to book a place that was incredibly hard to find. Then I ended up, in desperation, having to get out of the car and flag down the oncoming traffic so we could sneak into our parking area by going down a one-way street the wrong way! The entrance to our hotel was closed and we had to go next door to a strip club to ask for further directions. This was even more hilarious as there was a 'staff wanted' poster out the front of the club! I think we were a little out of the desired age range!

Rydges in Townsville suggested compensating for the lack of hot water with a discount on accommodation and free breakfast. Now that is speaking my language! I could stand an invigorating cold shower before a smorgasbord breakfast! It was worth a night of no hot water. Each morning Sylvia and I allowed an hour for breakfast indulgence and chats to other conference attendees.

With almost 200 delegates from all over Australia we found some spare seats and were later surprised to learn we were sitting at a table with some lovely fellow Queensland wildlife carers from the Kingaroy/Nanango area. Even more co-incidental was the fact that one of the ladies was my next door neighbor's daughter!

There were so many fascinating papers presented. It was interesting to listen to Professor Rick Speare, as I have a very battered booklet of his from about 1980 something!

The quality and variation of presentations kept everyone fascinated, though sitting in one spot for more than fifteen minutes was sometimes a challenge to my eyelids. This luxury just doesn't happen at home.

The Conference was a great place for networking—yes I have lined up even more exciting workshops for 2013!

We mentioned to Derek Spielman that carers preferred one day, as two-day workshops were a little difficult for carers to attend both of them. He said if we had to meet the airfare costs, then it was better value for money to have someone speak for two days. Well, I know I'd be at every workshop regardless of how many days it ran for! It's a struggle to get the hall cleared and locked up before going home to feed animals in the dark on those short winter days, but it is always worth it.

Anne Fowler's presentation was interesting as always, and Jim Pollock and Jenelle Gay's studies of Dermatitis in Common Brushtail Possums should be read by all possum carers. There is so much reading on the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference website. Just go to 'Past Conferences' and read the papers.

I was very pleased to meet Rosemary Austen, a lovely caring, compassionate person. She and Steve Garlick's "Rescuing and Treating Macropod Fence Injuries" was of particular interest to me.

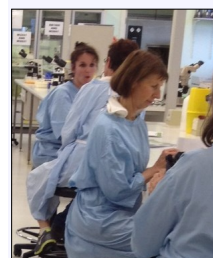
Tania Duratovic's presentations on disasters and wildlife were inspirational. The horror of the Victorian bushfires were an ever-present thought on people's minds and a real empathy is felt for what people went through at that tragic time.

I thought of WILVO, Lyndall Pettett, while listening to the "Relationship Between Tooth Condition and Body Condition in Black Flying Foxes". It reminded me of Lyndall's fascination with the oral health of koalas!

The Diagnostic Parasitology & Microbiology Workshop out at James Cook Uni was brilliant. Noone wanted to go home! The staff there went out of their way to make it a very learning experience. It was very much appreciated.

Eleanor and Jim Pollock and all their fellow-organizers can be very proud of their Conference. The work

behind the scenes to put on such an event is just incredible. They did a wonderful job and should be congratulated!.....Donna



Sylvia studying parasites!

### READ READ READ

Could everyone please note that Raptors go to Jackie Fraser. It says this on the front of the Contact List and Jackie is the Raptor Co-Ordinator. If no answer, leave a message, and Jackie will get back to you very quickly.

When the hotline gets a call for wildlife it is WILVOS responsibility from that moment. No animal—bird, marsupial, reptile—is to be directed elsewhere. If, for the well-being of the animal i.e. grouping species, we have to look to other carers or wildlife groups, then this has to be checked out with our Chairperson or one of the Vice-Chairpersons first.

Karen, from Wildcare, has also asked that their carers have an active permit with only one wildlife group. This is a practical solution to people having to fill out a number of different fauna returns, so we ask our carers to follow the same protocol. People can belong to any number of wildlife groups, but just be active with one group. It is the carer's choice.



Pomona vet 'Buzz', and vet nurses Brooke and Brooke, give a kookaburra one final check to ensure he is ready for release.

It was fascinating to look at the xrays on the computer. Wow, how great is technology! It was brilliant viewing on this high tech equipment.

It was a happy outcome for kookaburra.

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

Congratulations to WILVOs Kendall & Joachim on the amazing success with their choir group in Europe. Out there competing at the International Eisteddford singing to 5000 people at the main "tent" at Llangollen. The full Choir came 2nd, the Ladies 3rd and the Mens 4th.

Congratulations—you deserved to be photographed on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral, and your few days R & R in Antibes! Go Kendall & Yokki!

S have had a week of people bringing me animals because "I have time".

Example of last Sunday 'having time':

Work till 2.30am on the WILVOS newsletter. Rise and shine at 6am to feed animals. Have a powernap from 8am to 8.30am. Leave to go to the Induction/New Carer's workshop at 9am. Finish at the hall at 2.30pm when a call comes for a pinkie possum. Rush home, feed animals, go and collect pinkie. Administer fluids and hope it energizes!. Feed neighbor's cat and chooks. (Trusting soul!) Go and feed daughter's chooks and discover 6 new chicks. Rev up the brooder box for them. Collect foliage on way home for dog attacked possum. Check pinkie possum. Lookin' good! Some leftovers for my dinner. A glass of wine? No, I might fall asleep in my dinner! Feed possums in humidicrib again. Back to newsletter. Few more wallaby feeds in there somewhere and the odd chocolate fix! 2am feed everything again. Pinkie possum is looking good but now has a pink patch around its tiny pouch. Oh no...little wiggly things at pouch. Maggots. Just what I need at 2.30am Certainly woke me up! Deal with that and then hit the sack till the phone wakes me at 6.30 on Monday morning with another wildlife distress call!

Yep, I always have time..because I make time..and I love this crazy life—as long as chocolate is at hand!

***"Have you got time to do a few hours a month on the phone roster?"..... Donna***

### ***WHY DID YOU JOIN WILVOS AS A WILDLIFE CARER???***

If it was just to look after a cute and cuddly animal, then that is not the way it goes!

Being a WILVO active carer means caring for wildlife—all wildlife. This means picking up all species, helping with phones, fundraising or one of the other many chores that have to be done.



Our lovely WILVO Anneke Krygsman very generously bought a trap when a member of the public rang her about a possum with dermatitis. The trap had to be very large as the female possum also had a joey on her back, and is actually a dog trap. Camouflaged with foliage the trap did the trick.

The trap is now at Sammy Ringers if anyone needs to borrow it.

Contact Sammy on 54943812

Our WILVO carers are expected to collect all species (excluding bats and venomous snakes). It is imperative that we get orphaned or injured wildlife to an environment of “warm dark quiet” as soon as possible.

It is helpful to the wildlife, to our vets and to the members of the public who have taken the time to call us when finding orphaned or injured wildlife. Once we have collected the animal we can then phone the relevant co-ordinator or experienced carer to decide on the next step.

Members of the public are often quite distressed at seeing injured wildlife so we need to thank them for taking the time to call us, and deal with the situation as soon as we can.

Last week a family was going home from Noosaville after their holidays. Just as they were leaving they saw birds ‘bombing’ something down in the garden. They took the time to check and found an injured ringtail possum. Though they had to leave, they gave clear instructions and left a rock on a piece of paper near where the possum was hiding.

WILVOS Yvie and Phillip Somerville, who are always happy to handle crisis situations in the Noosa area, immediately found the possum and took it to the vets. The poor animal had severe spinal injuries and if someone had not called our hotline this poor animal would have had a slow agonizing death.

Our WILVO road signs are working well. A number of people have told us they knew who to call after seeing the signs. Others have put the phone number into their mobile phones for later use.

One lovely gentleman in Yandina had an injured brush turkey in his yard. He remembered seeing the sign on the road so he drove down there to get the phone number to call.



### THANK YOU PHONE ROSTER VOLUNTEERS!



Sometimes I think our hotline phone volunteers are unaware of just how much they help our wildlife.

Not only do they lead to lives being saved but they often don't hear of the amazing outcomes.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!**

Thanks to WILVO member, Lindsay Hingston, for defining these birds so aptly. If people remember **GREY GOOD** and **BROWN BAD**, it may save the poor native Noisy Miner from being penalized!

\*Our native birds hop, the Indian Mynas have a confident ‘walk’.

\*Indian Mynas kill young gliders, destroy eggs and young birds.

\*Indian Mynas nest in roof leaving mites in their wake.



ABOVE: Our native Noisy Miner

**GREY GOOD ~ BROWN BAD**

BELOW: The introduced Common or Indian Myna



### IT'S NEARLY CHRISTMAS TIME

Encourage people to think wildlife when they buy presents—cat aviaries: [www.catmax.com.au](http://www.catmax.com.au)

# WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION INC.

## WILVOS TEAM FOR 2012/13

**\*\*\* 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, or for contacting people such as Rosemary who is always happy to have help with her information stalls around the Sunshine Coast. If you can help in any way, please contact the appropriate people...all help is welcome!***

### **\* Management Committee**

<b>*Chairperson:</b>	Sylvia Whiting	54 467760 0400 125807	email: <a href="mailto:chairperson@wilvos.org.au">chairperson@wilvos.org.au</a>
<b>*Vice Chair:</b>	Joyce Thompson	54 417658	email: <a href="mailto:joyglynn@bigpond.com">joyglynn@bigpond.com</a>
	Donna Anthony	0413 861757	email: <a href="mailto:donnalenoreanthony@hotmail.com">donnalenoreanthony@hotmail.com</a>
<b>*Secretary:</b>	Casey Murtagh	0422 155576	email: <a href="mailto:secretary@wilvos.org.au">secretary@wilvos.org.au</a>
<b>*Treasurer:</b>	Annette Buchanan	54 421734	email: <a href="mailto:treasurer@wilvos.org.au">treasurer@wilvos.org.au</a>

### **Co-Ordinating Team**

**Community Awareness/Schools:** Roslyn Leslie 54850056 0409598437 email: [pomonarozzie@bigpond.com](mailto:pomonarozzie@bigpond.com)

**Co-Ordinators:**

Birds:	Vanessa Starkey	54 422970 0416219725	email: <a href="mailto:starkey66@bigpond.com">starkey66@bigpond.com</a>
Marsupial:	Nalda Patterson	31023045 0415982445	email: <a href="mailto:naldap@live.com.au">naldap@live.com.au</a>
Reptiles:	Jill Zimmerman	54781315 0411558827	email: <a href="mailto:wild_spirit5@yahoo.com.au">wild_spirit5@yahoo.com.au</a>
Raptors:	Jackie Fraser	54999057	

**Data Returns Co-Ordinator:** Tammy Donlen 54469205 0402806568 email: [returns@wilvos.org.au](mailto:returns@wilvos.org.au)

**(Please email all electronic fauna and phone returns to [returns@wilvos.org.au](mailto:returns@wilvos.org.au)**

**If you fill out a handwritten form, then post to WILVOS PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560)**

**Enquiries:** Donna Anthony 0413 861757 email [enquiries@wilvos.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wilvos.org.au)

**Environmental Officer:** Lyndall Pettett email: [lyndall\\_pettett@hotmail.com](mailto:lyndall_pettett@hotmail.com)

**Fundraising Officer/Stalls Co-Ordinators:** Rosemary Dax 54 754455

**Media PR Co-Ordinator:** Donna Anthony 0413 861757 email: [enquiries@wilvos.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wilvos.org.au)

**Membership Secretary:** Sylvia Whiting 54 467760 0400 125807 email: [membership@wilvos.org.au](mailto:membership@wilvos.org.au)

**Minute Secretary:** Joyce Thompson 54 417658 email: [joyglynn@bigpond.com](mailto:joyglynn@bigpond.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Donna Anthony 0413 861757 email: [newsletter@wilvos.org.au](mailto:newsletter@wilvos.org.au)

**Phone Roster Co-Ordinators:** Rosemary Dax 54754455

Julie Mcleish 54 927189 0433 308851 email: [julesmc12@gmail.com](mailto:julesmc12@gmail.com)

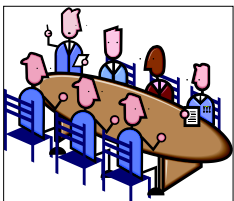
**Phone Roster Training:** Roslyn Leslie 54 850056 0409 598437 email: [pomonarozzie@bigpond.com](mailto:pomonarozzie@bigpond.com)

***(If you can't do your rostered phone time—either swap or find someone else to do the shift. 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.)***

**Release Officers:** Paul Smith 54 438315 email: [releases@wilvos.org.au](mailto:releases@wilvos.org.au)

Paula Savage (Assistant) 54 739479 0411 334846 email: [surfdazy@gmail.com](mailto:surfdazy@gmail.com)

**Workshops Education Officer:** Steve Dixon 0401 365 543 email: [education@wilvos.org.au](mailto:education@wilvos.org.au)



*Welcome to the 2012/13 Management Committee and Co-Ordinating team. Thank you to all last year's committee and team. Though administration tasks can be a struggle at times, they are a necessary part of caring for our wildlife, and they are just as important an aspect as 'hands-on' caring for injured or orphaned wildlife.*

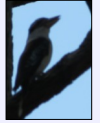
*If you have any queries, please contact the relevant person on the above list. Please phone Rosemary and put your name and details on her list of people willing to help her in the coming year. The community awareness stalls at the various events are a fun way of spreading the word about enjoying our Australian native wildlife. They are also a good outlet for recruiting new members. People like to talk about what we do and often are willing to help but don't know how to go about it. Signing them up as a WILVO is a good start!*

The difference between a stupid man and a wise one is the stupid man's inability to calculate the consequences of the action. The same goes for government. Brian Penton - journalist

**www.awrc.org.au** Visit this website to see the papers presented at the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference held in Townsville in July. You can look up papers from all past conferences and they are a great source of education. Put this website in 'Favorites' so you can read up on the papers whenever you have a spare minute, or sixty! It is addictive reading for those who crave knowledge about our wildlife!

If you don't have any animals in care and haven't been contacted about any recently — then please contact the relevant co-ordinators.

All new members, and other members who haven't yet attended, are expected to attend Ailsa and Sonja's Bird Workshop. Birds are the animals most needing our help so this training is invaluable.



If you wish to support our versatile Secretary, Casey, in the last weeks of her amazing fundraising venture for the Orangutans please email her on [cmurtaghpofproject@hotmail.com](mailto:cmurtaghpofproject@hotmail.com) or phone on 0422 155576

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

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**October 2012**

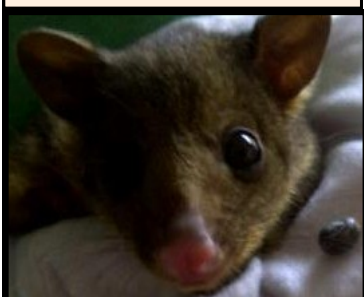


**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**

**It's no good crying over spilt milk; all we can do is bail up another cow** Joseph Chiefley - Prime Minister

Double check your wildlife for ticks. This little possum came in seemingly all fit as a fiddle. Next day a tick was found on his neck, then another fat one between his toes.



Welcome to  
all our new  
**WILVOS**  
members.  
See you all  
at the Peggy  
Rismiller  
workshop.

### **THE WARM WEATHER IS HERE**

- Don't leave milk in aviary. If it isn't drunk immediately, then remove. Bacteria forms very quickly in the heat.
- Place a few containers of fresh water in aviaries. Scrub dishes out daily. We know how those ringtail possums love to contaminate the water!
- Protect animals from the heat. Timber 'sleepers' and palm fronds on top of the aviary help keep the temperature down. Give it all a hose down!
- Wine cask bladders filled with water and frozen help cool the environment around cages, aviaries and shelters.
- Grow native shrubs in the aviary.