

WILVOS WILDLIFE WHISPERS



Silvereye



Photo: Ridley Kennedy

"What am I?"

Find answer hiding on back page!

FEBRUARY 2013

Please find enclosed a Calendar of Events for 2013. These tentative dates will be confirmed in the Workshop Confirmation Form in each newsletter. Please always book as soon as possible after receiving the form. **Don't miss the native bees.**



A note from Dr Lyndall Pettett Environmental Officer, WILVOS.

Hi everyone, I thought I would explain what I can offer you in my position as Environmental Officer for the WILVOS.

I have been a part of the WILVOS for many years, held different positions in the management team (although I did fail at being temporary secretary once by losing the keys to the mailbox), taught at workshops and developed manuals and programs for the organisation.

For those of you who are new to the group and haven't met me outside the WILVOS, in my other life I'm a microbiologist and an ecologist and for the past six years I've been researching dental disease in koalas. As E.O of WILVOS I'm here to support you on all levels of rehabilitation. For me the word 'environment' does not simply encompass the big world out there where your animals live. That is of course very important but environment also means the aviaries or cages they live in at your place, their bodies and what is going on in there, their psychological wellbeing, diet, injury and release. Every part from the animal itself to the life it leads out in the world comes under 'environment'. It doesn't matter whether it is a basic or even silly question or a puzzle that you need suggestions on, please feel free to contact me and I will help as much as I can. I am only available by email as my time is restricted.....Lyndall..

Thank You' to Clint at the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and to Division 10's Cr Greg Rogerson for the WILVOS signage being erected around the Sunshine Coast roads.

Lyndall was recently engaged by the environmental department to assess voluntary organisations applications for the first round of \$800,000 of funding to save the koala.

Lyndall found the grant applications to be very diverse and there were some wonderful plans for future projects to help save our koalas. She was thrilled to be asked by EHP to participate in the selection process and it is a great honour to the WILVOS organization that one of our members should be asked to perform such an important role.

We are always very proud of you Lyndall,

Though habitat loss is recognized as the greatest threat to the world's wildlife, many other human impact factors also come into the equation. This may be in the form of domestic animal attacks or road accidents, overpopulation in developed areas leading to disease, our exotic plant species taking over from native vegetation, our air and waterways becoming contaminated with pollution, our fences trapping animals in time of flood and fire. The human race has a lot to answer for! The following is from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Category	Description
Extinct	
Extinct	No living individuals of the species exist.
Extinct in the wild	A species is known to survive only in cultivation, captivity or as a naturalised population outside of its past range.
Threatened	
Critically Endangered	A species is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future.
Endangered	A species is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
Vulnerable	A species is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future.
Lower Risk	
Conservation Dependent	A species that is being sustained by ongoing conservation programs, however without those programs the species would likely qualify for one of the threatened categories within 5 years.
Near Threatened	A Species that is close to Vulnerable status for which no conservation measures are in place.
Least Concern	A species that does not qualify for conservation dependent or near threatened classification

Congratulations to our truly amazing Secretary, Casey Murtagh, who raised \$24,000 for the Matang Wildlife Centre in Borneo.

Continuing with her passion to raise funds and awareness of the plight of the world's remaining orangutans, Casey will have more inspiring news in the next newsletter.



Who's who in the zoo?

A Common (Oh, how we hate that word!) Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*). and a Short-eared Possum (*Trichosurus caninus*), the latter also known as a Bobuck.

After growing mealworms I have decided not only are crickets more nutritious for our wildlife they are also much more fun to farm.

HOMING DUCKS

We do hear some interesting storiessome showing why wildlife should not be relocated!

A resident in Verriedale was finding it very difficult with the mess left by ducks in and around the pool, and on the verandah concrete. They trapped the ducks and took them to Lake McDonald. They said the ducks almost beat them home!

The next relocation was at Baroon Pocket Dam, behind Montville on the 10th January. Guess who returned on the 4th February—duck family that is now allowed stay!



Snakes are on the move, with the combination of warmer weather and breeding season. On the Sunshine Coast with our subtropical weather we have a variety of snakes.

Snakes can be found in every natural habitat and some have adapted to live in gardens, farms and even in buildings, often in very close proximity to humans. Despite this, many people are unfamiliar with our local snakes, and there is a high degree of wariness, ignorance and even fear in our community. Pythons nearly 3 metres long can be found in our backyards and in the roof of our homes, preying on rats and possums.

Keelbacks hunt frogs and cane toads along our local creeks.

Whip snakes zip across hot footpaths chasing skinks. Crowned snakes emerge from our compost heaps and rock walls.

That is just to name a few.

As an active volunteer wildlife reptile carer, sadly most injuries I rescue snakes from are caused by people trying to kill or harm them, through lack of understanding and fear of snakes.

The safest action is to slowly move away from the snake and leave it alone. Pythons have heat pits and know we are living beings, and mean us no harm. Venomous snakes do not have heat pits, this means if we stand still when in close proximity to the snake, we are safe, as snakes do not bite things that do not move.

I have been working with snakes since 2002. This includes, pythons, colubrids and venomous.

Snakes, like any animal, can become defensive when provoked, injured or attacked. To suggest any snake will deliberately get excited and attack a person, so much bigger than them, is not a reality.

In my experience Red Bellied Black snakes are great bluffers. They may raise up and puff out their neck to look larger and sway in front of you, but believe me they would rather move away from you if given the opportunity.

There have been reports of Eastern Browns getting excited and occasionally charging attackers. Many stories of aggression come from people where the image of a snake being clobbered to death is justified by its supposedly terrible nature. Only last week some one killed one of our beautiful wild Carpet Pythons from the Eumundi Market. He was found in the park adjacent to market. This snake had no fear of humans and trusted us.

Remember snakes can be defensive, but in all cases will prefer to move away.

To encourage snakes in to your garden, use a range of vegetation options, grasses, shrubs, trees, and provide cover at ground level such as small piles of rocks, wood piles and composts. Stack garden prunings under shrubs. Ponds and natural vegetation are attractive to snakes.

To discourage snakes from living in your garden:

The type of garden that tends to support low numbers of snakes is simple and open. Sterile gardens, regularly mowed lawns and areas of concrete providing very little suitable cover and hiding places for snakes.

To help snakeproof your house, have storm strips on the bottom of external doors and insect screens on windows. Replace broken roof tiles and repair any holes or gaps in the roof. Prune the branches on large trees that touch your roof, which give a python easy access.

Snakes can be attracted under your house by an abundance of prey eg. Rodents, and for shelter during extreme weather conditions— heat, drought, floods etc.

Unfortunately snakes are often pushed out of their home range, destroyed by land clearing and development.

I don't expect every-one to share my passion for our snakes, but please treat them with respect and remember they are part of our environment and have a role to play in keeping the balance of nature.

We don't want a rat plague! *Jill Zimmerman*



NATALIE MAY'S INTERESTING WILDLIFE FACTS

FEBRUARY ADDITION

Animals, I find them to be beautiful unique creatures. Though there are some species that are misunderstood causing humans to dislike. For instance bats, I myself find it difficult to understand why the dislike for such amazing beautiful creatures. Is it because of their odd appearance? Their flying ability? Their sound? Their Smell? Their apparent Zoonosis transmittable diseases? If the large dislike of this species is in relation to any of the above then all and every animal species should be frowned upon as they all differ from appearance, make different sounds, emit dissimilar smells, and can carry diverse zoonosis diseases.

This article will be dedicated to bats. I will let you make the call, are they an essential element to the earth's biodiversity or are they a menace to society.

There are over 1000 species of bats in the world belonging to the Order Chiroptera meaning 'hand winged'. They are broken down into three Suborders scientific classifications; them being *Megachiroptera* (megabats), *Yinpterochiroptera* (Mixture of Megabats and Microbats), and *Microchiroptera* (Microbats). One quarter of universal mammal species are bats. In Australia there are over 90 species, both Megabats and Microbats.

There are many bats in Australia therefore I will discuss one particular bat species that being The Little Red Flying Fox (*Pteropus scapulatus*).

The Little Red Flying Fox inhabits a broad range of habitats which includes monsoon forests, semi-arid areas to tropical and temperate eucalypt forests, and paperbark swamps. Their distribution ranges from Shark Bay in Western Australia around the north coast to Queensland and south to northern Victoria (there have been sighted recordings in South Australia also). They roost in camps of 100+ bats however they are nomadic meaning they migrate frequently depending on the available food resources.

The Little Reds have a roaming range from their camp of 20 – 30 km. The Little Reds are mainly nectarivorous. They prefer to feed off nectar (especially Bloodwood, Eucalypt, and Angophora nectar) however they will consume fruit, sap, and insects when preferred food resources are unavailable.

Through the eyes of our planet's ecosystem The Little Red Flying Fox is a vital element to biodiversity. This species contributes to pollination of plants, seed dispersal/aid in the distribution of plants, aids in the breakdown of plant matter, and are a food resource for other creatures. The Little Reds form a mutualism (two organisms of different species biologically interact) relationship with plants. Thus the Little Red and the plant of feeding, both individual species originate a fitness benefit (i.e. food source and/or improved or increased reproductive output).

The Little Reds are listed as Lower Risk Least Concern according to the IUCN (The International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species however this does not mean humanity can be lenient on threatening factors of the animal's survival. Current threats are habitat loss, power-lines, and barbed-wire fences. To reduce the current threats let's ease down on construction and plant more trees, place a larger gap between power-lines, and use wire instead of barbed-wire (Little Reds fly low to the ground hence why they are caught frequently on 1m high barbed-wire fences).

So what will it be, are bats an essential element to the earth's biodiversity or are they a menace to society?

Interesting fact: Little Reds are the only Flying Fox in the world that consumes almost exclusively nectar. Their tongues have evolved differently from other Flying Foxes. Their tongue structure resembles that of a nectar feeding bird such as a Honey Eater.



Figures 1 & 2: Little Red Flying Fox (*Pteropus scapulatus*) 'Sunny' was rescued after being caught up on a barbed wire fence overnight. He made a full recovery and was re-released back into the wild after making a mark in my heart.

Help needed for Easter Saturday Dance

Rosemary would love it if you could make some slices, biscuits or a cake—or help out on the night. **Call**

Rosemary on

54 75 44 55

Also, please call Rosemary to advise what time suits you for phone roster.



This was one amazing rescue! Very fortunately the property owners noticed a possum twisting around madly as its head was stuck in a bird nesting box. It was stuck fast. Even more fortunately, these wonderful people called WILVOS. The hotline call went to Sylvia, who coerced hubby, Bob, to come along on the rescue. (Is Bob ready to catch Sylvia or the possum, in the photo above with his arms lovingly outstretched—I think he'll go for the heavier option?) When Sylvia managed to push the head back through the hole, she insists she wasn't flinging the possum through the air—the possum just flew down her arm!

How lucky that the property owner, Dawn, took photos!



Thank you to Dawn Wood who took these photos.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Almost forty people turned up at our recent Induction/New Carers day. This comprised fifteen families, and it was great to see so many young people attend. Not all attendees wish to be active carers at this point in time, but they do want to learn by attending workshops, or to contribute their skills in helping our wildlife and our organization.

Thank you to Barb and Peter Blashki for the donation of the Off Beat Eco Tour prize for the Suncoast Social Dance Club Dance. Now that is a great prize for the lucky door prize winner.

GET WELL SOON MADELEINE!

After a lovely holiday, Madeleine Flynn is back, but with a fractured shoulder. Get well soon Madeleine—those short-eared possums are missing you—but you do **not** want one of them landing on your shoulder!

www.awrc.org.au

Visit this website to see the papers from all past conferences. Put this website in 'Favorites' so you can read up on the papers whenever time allows. It is necessary reading for those who crave knowledge about our wildlife, and if you are a dedicated wildlife carer, then it is this knowledge that saves our wildlife!

If you are a possum carer you would have all read the paper presented by veterinarian Jim Pollock and wildlife carer Jenelle Gay - "Culture and Sensitivity Studies on Exudative Dermatitis of Common Brushtail Possums in Townsville". The table on the last page is helpful in diagnosing whether your possum has a Pseudomonas or a Staphylococcus infection. There are very simple observations to be made and the human drug Cefaclor monohydrate, 'Ceclor' or "Keflor", is the drug that they have been using in Townsville for the past 20 years or more, as it gives the fastest result for "Staph" infection. If a veterinarian decides this is the drug to use, then a prescription can be written out, and it is extremely inexpensive at the pharmacy ie approximately \$8. Clavulox is also recommended.

On the other hand, if it is a Pseudomonas, then there is no quick response to either Ceclor or Clavulox, which indicates that Enrofloxacin—the good old Baytril 50—is needed. Unfortunately, in their studies in Townsville, they have found that the Pseudomonas cases usually found their way into care when the animal was in a very bad state.

Wished I had been able to get to Tim Portas' macropod workshop with Wildcare, but being at Capalaba I just couldn't make it. Though it was the same format as the one he did for WILVOS, there is always something new to learn or some new question to ask at workshops "Experienced carers seem to do things instinctively" - words said by Tim that are brought to mind so often in wildlife treatment.



Collect those syzygium and other native tree berries while they are so prolific. Pop them in the freezer for later use if you don't need them now. The birds and possums will thank you! The recent high winds did provide us with instant foliage and new branches for our aviaries. I even found some branches all sawed up to the right size to carry home in my car!

Please keep your receipts so you can claim a food subsidy if you qualify for same. If you wish to apply for a subsidy, please request a food subsidy claim form through enquiries@wilvos.org.au or post in a request for a form from the PO Box. Our Treasurer manages to perform marathon tasks with the bookwork, along with her own full-time+ work, so Annette shouldn't have to add up odd amounts from scraps of paper and shopping dockets. Please fill in the form and attach **receipts and a copy of your fauna returns for the time the subsidy is claimed.**

(Send your original fauna returns via email or post, as usual).

To qualify for the food subsidy the following guidelines must be followed:

- Co-ordinator must have been advised when the animals first came into care—the marsupial, bird and reptile co-ordinator's details are in this newsletter.
- Release Officer must be advised prior to the animals being ready for release.
- Copies of fauna returns to be attached to the claims. (Originals to be sent in normally, for WILVOS records.)
- The minimum of two WILVO workshops per year to be attended by carer, as is necessary to retain your permit.

The above are all standard rules of the organization.

- The person claiming must be an active WILVO carer listed on the Contact List
- A minimum amount of \$80, and maximum amount of \$300 has been spent over a 3 month period, with a cap of \$150 to be claimed as re-imbursement.
- The subsidy does not cover costs of expensive items such as mice, mealworms, crickets etc. When using these items on a regular basis, it is the responsibility of carers to grow their own, or entice someone else to grow them for you! WILVOS are quite happy to advise details of breeding your own wildlife food. Crickets have more food value than mealworms and can be bred quite easily so there is a regular supply from your 'cricket farm'. Similarly, with fruit/vegetables, carers should seek out sources from local fruit and vegetable suppliers. As these are a supplement only with most species, they should not form a major part of the diet of wildlife in care.
- Subsidy is for the cheapest available price for the product.

A WEBSITE FOR EVERYONE TO SAVE IN FAVOURITES

<http://www.aviceda.org/abid/index.php>

This is a great bird ID site for everyone, carers or just backyard enthusiasts. Check it out!

WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION INC.

WILVOS TEAM FOR 2012/13

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

Rosemary is always looking for helpers on her information stalls around the Sunshine Coast. If you can help in any way, please contact the appropriate people...all help is welcome! Sylvia, our Chairperson, is always available to anyone who has any worries or complaints, or just needs advice.

*** Management Committee**

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

Co-Ordinating Team

Community Awareness/Schools:	Roslyn Leslie	54850056 0409598437	email: pomonarozzie@bigpond.com
Co-Ordinators:	Birds: Sarah Powell	0402 369 057	email: slp007@student.usc.edu.au
	Marsupial: Nalda Patterson	31023045 0415982445	email: nalda@y7mail.com
	Reptiles: Jill Zimmerman	54781315 0411558827	email: wild_spirit5@yahoo.com.au
	Raptors: Jackie Fraser	54999057	

Data Returns Co-Ordinator: Tammy Read 54469205 0402806568 email: returns@wilvos.org.au

(Please email all electronic fauna and phone returns to 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
Environmental Officer:	Lyndall Pettett		email: 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
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Membership Secretary:	Sylvia Whiting	54 467760 0400 125807	email: membership@wilvos.org.au
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Minute Secretary:	Joyce Thompson	54 417658	email: joyglynn@bigpond.com
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Newsletter Editor:	Donna Anthony	0413 861757	email: newsletter@wilvos.org.au
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Phone Roster Co-Ordinators:	Rosemary Dax	54754455	
	Julie McLeish	54 927189 0433 308851	email: julesmc12@gmail.com

Phone Roster Training:	Roslyn Leslie	54 850056 0409 598437	email: pomonarozzie@bigpond.com
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(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
	Paula Savage (Assistant)	54 739479 0411 334846	email: surfdazy@gmail.com

Workshops Education Officer:	Donna Anthony while Steve is away		email: education@wilvos.org.au
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WILVOS CO-ORDINATORS

Welcome to Sarah Powell who has taken over the roll of Bird Co-Ordinator. Thank you also to Vanessa Starkey who so successfully managed to get carers, or most of them, to contact their Bird Co-Ordinator.

To be a WILVO Co-Ordinator is not about being an expert in that field, or having to place the relevant animals. Co-ordinators have just one responsibility. When an animal comes into care, the carer emails/phones the relevant co-ordinator—bird, marsupial, reptile or raptor—and the co-ordinator records this species against the carers name, advising what other carers have this same species, should it need to be grouped.

As with the Marsupial List, the list will be sent to the Wildlife Hospital, so they can ring carers direct should they need to pass a bird to a WILVO carer, They also have the Phone Contact List so can ensure that a short-term bird is given to someone close to the area where it will need to be re-released.

EVERYONE ON THIS LATEST CONTACT LIST PLEASE EMAIL slp007@student.usc.edu.au This is the simplest way for Sarah to save all the email addresses, rather than being given the list of same. If not on email, then phone Sarah so she has you on the list. THIS WILL MAKE SARAH'S JOB MUCH EASIER.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL SUNSHINE COAST AND HINTERLAND
VETERINARIANS WHO GIVE SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE IN THE CARE OF
OUR WILDLIFE.**

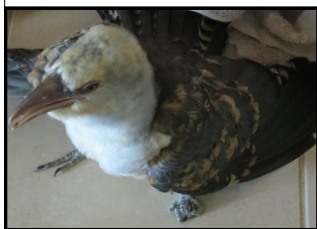
**REMEMBER TO OCCASIONALLY REWARD THEM WITH TOKENS OF APPRECIATION IN
THE FORM OF GIFTS OR GIFT VOUCHERS!**

It was great to see so many attend our Christmas get-together. It was a lovely surprise to see longtime member Archie Bouchon-Small come so far to catch up with us. He was an inspiration to our young members. Archie has just finished his environmental and wildlife studies at Gatton. It seems not so long ago he was a young member of WILVOS caring for all wildlife, with a special interest in raptors.

THANK YOU TO NAMBOUR PRINT CENTRE FOR A GREAT JOB PRINTING OUR NEWSLETTER

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 2013



Channel-billed Cuckoo

(Seythrops novaehollandiae)

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**



Photo: Vanessa Starkey

*Congratulations to Tammy (nee Donlen)
and Dale Read on their marriage. WILVOS
wish you a long and happy life together.*



Long-nosed Potaroo

After dedicated caring by Vanessa Starkey and Annie Carstons, these rare twin brushtails have now 'grown up' and been released.

Though WILVOS have had a couple of sets of short-eared or bobuck possum twins come in over the years, it was the first time for this brushtail species.