

October 2013

WILVOS



WILDLIFE WHISPERINGS



I was delighted to be chosen as a finalist in the Environment Category of the Queensland Pride of Australia Awards, but I certainly didn't expect to be a winner. It certainly didn't feel like a competition, as every person there was a winner. News Limited (The Sunday Mail and The Courier Mail) and Channel 10 made everyone feel very welcome and proud of their achievements. One lovely young gentleman even gave Sylvia and I each one of the exquisite flower arrangements off the tables. The awards luncheon at Customs House in Brisbane was a delightful day and it was wonderful to meet such an inspiring group of people, of all ages, with so many stories of courage in so many facets of life. Our wildlife and our environment need all the positive attention possible and I felt my award was shared with all wildlife carers and all environmentally-minded people across the State.....Donna

DR DEREK SPIELMAN WORKSHOP POSTPONED TILL NEXT YEAR 2014

I, along with many other carers around south-east Queensland, was really looking forward to the weekend of training in November with Dr Derek Spielman. MVSc BSc PhD MACVSc (Wildlife Medicine), Lecturer in Veterinary Pathology, University of Sydney. He also generously volunteers his time at the WAIF clinic www.waif.org.au

Derek asked if he could change the arrangements to another weekend, and after some discussion we agreed to leave it till next year. We all really appreciate the fact that these wonderful wildlife veterinarians make the time to come up to the Sunshine Coast for training workshops. It is understandable that their wildlife clinics sometimes just can't do without them for the weekend!

SO WATCH THIS SPACE IN 2014!!!

All wildlife carers should be conversant with the new 2013 Code of Practice on the Department of Environment & Heritage Protection's website.

www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/caring-for-wildlife/code-of-practice.html

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www.wilvos.org.au

Have you seen a koala lately?..... Paul Smith

We are all aware that the expanding urban footprint and conversion of native forests to agricultural land on the coast and hinterland has put extra pressure on our native wildlife. Adding to this problem is the isolation of the natural habitat that reduces the ability for wildlife to move through continuous corridors.

This puts them greatly at risk to the dangers of roads and car strike, dog attack, and reduces available seasonal food sources. To get an understanding of past, present and future fauna species population and distribution Wildlife Queensland Sunshine Coast has been running a citizen science monitoring program over the last 15 years. It is aimed at gathering a comprehensive and ongoing database of all animals on the Sunshine Coast including Moreton Bay to the south and Mary River to the north. This database currently holds over 650000 records of animal sightings but with the rate we are losing our natural environment and climate predictions it is now even more important to build the database and fill in the gaps to enable the best possible models of fauna distribution.

Because of this Wildlife Queensland SC is asking anybody who has seen a koala, echidna or platypus to email the location, date and time to their Faunawatch coordinator at faunawatch@wildlife.org.au. This information will then be forwarded to several groups including dedicated researchers, universities, council environmental departments, and state and national fauna databases.

Alternatively if you have any old fauna records or bird lists taken in the past, or if you are thinking about doing a regular survey on your property or local park they would love to hear from you and put all that information to good use.

You can find more information about the program at <http://www.wildlife.org.au/projects/fauna/>.



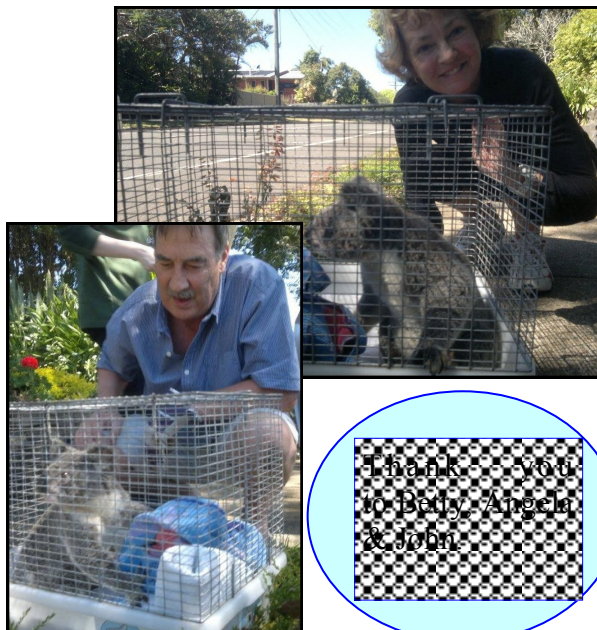
Speaking of koalas, Angela Fredatovich said she was very happy she had done the Manfred Zabinskas Rescue Workshop as the information has been invaluable in a number of rescues.

One morning a few weeks ago Angela received a call from the wildlife hospital about a koala caught in a fence nearby. Thinking it may be a tricky situation that required an extra pair of hands, and some extra muscle, husband John was invited along! A wise decision as it turned out!

The poor koala was lucky to be discovered by property owner, Betty, who rarely gardened in this particular area. Her prompt phonecall for help meant the situation was dealt with as soon as possible. The koala's legs were caught in the wire, with one limb so swollen it needed John and his wire cutters to remove it.

The Koala Rescue Team then turned up and the lucky koala was off to the wildlife hospital for lifesaving treatment.

At last report koala was doing well.



Thank you
to Betty, Angela
& John

WORKSHOPS

education@wilvos.org.au

As we are winding down to the end of the year, there is no workshop calendar attached. Most people email education@wilvos.org.au to book into workshops and that makes the booking process so much easier. If you don't have internet/email facilities to email Cathrin at this education email address, then please phone Cathrin at 0499 739990. Again, please remember that email is the preferred method of booking.

Sunday 17th November 2013: 1pm to 4 pm Introductory Bird Workshop with Ailsa Watson and Sonja Fenwick. Book at education@wilvos.org.au and email again in the week prior to the workshop and ask for confirmation of details of time and place.

Please take the time to attend this workshop. Birds make up the majority of animals needing care.

The 15th December 2013 marks twenty years of incorporation for WILVOS. This is a major milestone. WILVOS were operating approximately five years before incorporation so the organization has been in existence for a long time. Planning is underway to combine our Christmas party with a 20 year celebration. This was to be held on the Sunday 15th December but the date may be changed as our lovely Rosemary Dax is leaving for overseas on the 12th and we wouldn't like to see Rosemary miss out, as she has been a hard-working member of WILVOS since soon after it began.

Details will be placed on the website at a later date but please register your interest by emailing education@wilvos.org.au by the end of November if you wish to attend our celebrations. You will then be advised of final arrangements.



We just never know when we are going to need those skills we learnt at training workshops. Madeleine and family were visiting Brisbane over the school holidays and happened to see a brushtail possum going backwards and forwards across Beaudesert Road at Moorooka. Being an extremely busy road, care had to be taken to conduct a safe rescue. This lucky possum was caught by Madeleine, with the help of her children, and quickly taken to the nearest vet. It's injuries were so extensive that it needed to be euthanased, but how fortunate the right people drove past to rescue this animal and save it from any more distress, pain and suffering.

THANK YOU !!!



Wildlife carers just couldn't do their wildlife justice without the support of the amazing vets who go above and beyond to help our orphaned and injured wildlife. Yandina and Woombye vets must want to hide from me sometimes!

This photo shows Charlotte of the Woombye Vet Surgery with Cobey, a very lucky little red-necked wallaby. His mother was killed by a dog but people rescued the joey, with its extensive injuries, from the dog's mouth. Surprisingly he didn't die from shock. One of his big claws were broken off his foot, his eyelid was stripped back, his tail had a multitude of 'kinks' and his forearm was completely fractured—and they were the obvious injuries.

Nearly three months later, thanks to Charlotte, this little animal can now 'be a wallaby'. He's making up for lost time by dashing around the yard madly, though he still has a restricted exercise time so that he can build up his muscles gradually.

IT'S SHEARWATER SEASON AGAIN

Once again it is the time of year when hundreds of birds are found along the beaches suffering from exhaustion as their migration sorts out the fittest birds. Nature can seem cruel at times.

Please don't take these birds to the vet. (They would be inundated.)

Call Jackie Williams on 54 487680 for information.

Thank you, Leslie Ayling—you are a treasure!

In the past six months Leslie has filled in for our Secretary, our Treasurer, and in Rosemary's hectic job as phone roster organizer.

I really don't know what we would do without you. Casey has really appreciated your help while she has been involved in her Orangutan project and was thrilled that you agreed to take on the Secretary's position for this coming year. I heard the sigh of relief from Borneo!

Welcome to Cathrin who will be taking workshop bookings through the education@wilvos.org.au address, and also to Brien Seidler who is going to help Paul on the release side.

Thank you Paula for your work with releasing possums. You'll be happy to know that one short-eared possum pair, that you released not long before leaving for Darwin, are still happily living in their box. Though disappearing every now and then, they regularly return to their WILVOS possum box. Giorgio was a special patient for me so it is good to see he is managing to survive in the tough outside wild world. Maria probably scares any predators off. She was a bossy girl!



Bronwyn was completely won over by her first possum—a little ringtail possum that was then passed on to another carer who had a colony of ringtails.

Knowing that Bronwyn would need another possum to help her with the 'separation anxiety', gorgeous little Suzie, the brushtail possum, was introduced to her. Apprehensive at such a small creature, Bronwyn was rather tentative but decided to take on the challenge. The rest is history. Suzie is now a healthy, well adjusted possum and a credit to her carer!

ALL CAT OWNERS SHOULD HAVE ONE!!!



It was a pleasant surprise to run into Annette Scott at the Sunshine Coast Vets in Memorial Avenue Pomona recently. I remember Annette as a WILVO carer with her first red-necked wallaby many years ago.

I love this Catmax cage set up. The kittens inside were having a great time. Hopefully people will see that cats can be enclosed and enjoy a safe happy environment —meaning our wildlife are safe. too.....Donna.

Thank you to all the carers who so promptly email the relevant co-ordinator when an animal comes into care.

Thank you Rose for emailing out the weekly possum list, and Sarah for doing the same with the bird list.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR CO-ORDINATORS AS SOON AS ANIMALS ARRIVE IN YOUR CARE OR STATUS CHANGES.

Please remember that co-ordinators are there to record our wildlife. It is up to you as the carer to look at the weekly list and ring other carers to make arrangements for grouping or passing on wildlife.

Please use email if possible. It is difficult juggling, work, animals and answering the phone!

HOW CAN WE HELP OUR DATA RETURNS OFFICERS WITH FAUNA & TELEPHONE RETURNS???

Here are some examples of errors on the completed returns:

- forgetting to write names on the forms
 - squeezing more than 1 month on the forms
 - failing to fill whole sections of the form or disregarding information specifically requested in the columns
 - still using old forms
 - failing to use capitals when writing –some forms are very difficult to decipher .
 - using AWH accession numbers instead of WILVOS ID numbers
 - failing to give WILVOS ID numbers at all
1. I think if folks '**proof read**' their forms prior to posting them they might see how difficult it can be to read, or they might notice they haven't put the date or their name or some other important info on it.
 2. Some folks don't even use the columns instead they just write over the page in illegible script. This means the data returns officer has to decipher this, and ends up filling out the columns correctly for them. Please put the info on the page in the columns correctly— saving our volunteers loads of toil
 3. Some folks just write that their animals status's are the same as last month. That's it, they don't write up a form for that. Again it is assumed that the data returns office will fill this out for them.
 4. Encouraging writing in '**CAPITALS**' stops the laborious methods the returns officers have to use to decipher the info cause it can become a real guessing game on some of these forms.

PLEASE EMAIL returns@wilvos.org.au for a returns template if you aren't sending your forms back electronically.

Please read the front page of your contact list for details of primary contacts.

If you need to update your details on the **present** Contact List then please advise **Sylvia** as it states on this page.

Always throw out old lists.



PROUD MUM

Julie and Hannah have done a wonderful job with their first macropod. A 'pinkie' swamp wallaby in a humidicrib—they were thrown in the deep end! I was snowed under with macropods!

I am neurotic about my macropods and very fussy who they go to but I knew Ally was in good hands. Julie and Hannah attend every workshop and always ring with questions. Add a liberal dose of commonsense and there are the ingredients for great carers... *Donna*

Cats are lethal to our wildlife. If you pick up a bird, glider or possum or any animal where there has been the slightest possibility of it being in a cat's mouth (regardless of whether there are any marks) then that animal needs antibiotics as quickly as possible.

PAIN RELIEF IN WILDLIFE

Pain relief is a top priority for our wildlife. Those attending Dr Howard Ralph's workshops will have a good understanding of this—the importance of relieving suffering as well as the part the pain relief has in healing.

Recently, an adult kangaroo was observed in a paddock with a broken forearm. Someone said that it would be ok, that it would heal eventually. The bone may heal eventually but meanwhile the kangaroo would be suffering untold pain 24 hours a day which would eventually lead to it dying of myopathy. Fortunately, wildlife carers, who had a better understanding of the animal's needs, were able to capture the kangaroo and transport it to the vets. Thanks to the weekly return visits to 'Buzz' at the Sunshine Coast Vets at Pomona this kangaroo is well on the way to total recovery. Would we like to walk around all day with a broken arm unsupported??? Then try hopping with it.....ouch!!!

While cat owners in Western Australia have to sterilize, microchip and register their cats in line with the new feline control laws being introduced on the 1st November, what has just happened in Queensland???

The State Government has removed the requirement of mandatory registration of cats!!! This is insanity. I am disgusted and shake my head in disbelief.

It is up to the local government authorities on what regulations they chose to put in place, so it is important that all Councils are asked to look to Western Australia for an intelligent solution. There will be a fine of up to \$5000 for those not following the new laws over there.

Something has to be done to solve the tragedy of all the poor little kittens that are dumped or have to be euthanased. When it comes to cat control I think our Queensland State Government left their brains in the litter tray!!!!.....Donna

Casey, our secretary for the last couple of years, has returned from her very challenging Borneo trek. Just a mosquito net, no tent, torrential rain most nights, leeches and many other trials certainly made for an interesting fund-raiser. Casey raised well over \$20,000 and was an inspiration as always.

There are three fascinating fund-raisers for the Orangutans coming up in the next week.

Thursday 24th October- Benefit Dinner with Guest Speaker Leo Biddle, Maroochydoore RSL

Friday 25th October- Quiz night with Guest Speakers, Brisbane

Saturday 26th October- Lecture on Animal Ethics, Volunteerism and Eco Tourism from Orangutan Experts, Brisbane (This is at a cost of only \$10 and will be fascinating for anyone who can attend.)

SEE THE WEBSITE FOR POSTERS OF THE EVENTS

Note from our Environment Officer, Lyndall:

Interested in the rights of animals in Queensland? Go to

<http://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/exhibiting-animals-queensland/legislation-standards-exhibiting-animals>

and you will find plenty of interesting reading available on the welfare laws regarding pet stores, natural disasters, veterinarians, exhibitions and zoos plus other sectors of wildlife standards. Gaining knowledge from information such as this is a part of ongoing education towards being a highly skilled wildlife carer and spokesperson for their rights.

.....and more from Lyndall.....

Did you know that the brushtail possum *Trichosurus vulpecula* loves mistletoe, particularly the berries. Mistletoe grows on our eucalypts and along the road to Kenilworth at this time of year you can usually see plenty of it growing....the catch is how to find branches low enough for you to take some home to your babes in care.

A carer brought me a wallaby recently and was surprised that, I asked that, prior to it coming to me, the vet check its faeces for worms, coccidiosis oocysts and any other 'nasties'. I thought this was standard practice and is something I have done for years. I actually get a letter stating findings to transfer with the animal. Of course, if anything showed up, the animal would be treated before taking to someone else's property. I know of one particular case down south where a carer's kangaroo population was decimated because of animals being brought onto the property before being checked and cleared. So, please, everyone take these measures before transferring animals to another carer.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WILVOS organization but all contributions are welcome.

WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION INC. WILVOS TEAM FOR 2013/14

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

THANK YOU TO LAST YEARS TEAM & WELCOME TO THIS YEARS TEAM!

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 Chairs:** Joyce Thompson 54 417658

email: joyglynn@bigpond.com

Donna Anthony 0413 861757

email: donnalenoreanthony@hotmail.com

***Secretary:** Leslie Ayling 54417421 0437 637404

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

Marsupials: Rose Nation

email: wilvomarsupials@hotmail.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 Please send an email to this address to request a Returns Form template.

Post handwritten forms 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

Membership Secretary: Sylvia Whiting 54 467760 0400 125807

email: membership@wilvos.org.au

Minute Secretary: Joyce Thompson 54 417658

email: joyglynn@bigpond.com

Newsletter Editor: Donna Anthony 0413 861757

email: newsletter@wilvos.org.au

Phone Roster Co-Ordinators: Rosemary Dax 54754455

Julie McLeish 54 927189 0433 308851

email: julesmc12@gmail.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.)

Phone Roster Training: Roslyn Leslie 54 850056 0409 598437

email: pomonarozzie@bigpond.com

Release Officers: Paul Smith 54 438315

email: releases@wilvos.org.au

Brien Seidler (Assistant)

email: bs20134@gmail.com

Workshops Education Officer: Cathrin Thodock 0499 739990

email: education@wilvos.org.au

Hey Lesley Rogers! Our little birds miss you!



Jan, these chicks were soooo tiny!!!



Sarah Powell, willing worker that she is, drove this adorable galah and lorikeet up to Yandina and met up with Jan Butler. (photo at left) These chicks are now well-feathered and total ratbags! Great job, Jan!

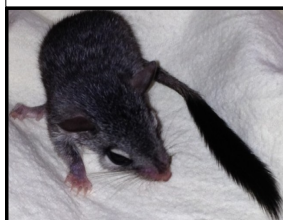
Jan thought she was content to just rear kangaroos and wallabies and see her released macropods return occasionally with their joeys. Bird care wasn't actually on the agenda.. Luckily husband John is now retired and is an expert hand with the macropods also.

Wildlife caring is all about continual learning. We can't expect to have healthy orphaned animals all the time. They are our reward animals! Sometimes we have to deal with animals that require intensive care for many months. These are the animals from which we learn so much.

Recently a new carer told me that she had received a little chick from a nest, but the people had told her that it was the 'runt of the litter' and was probably not meant to survive. Aaaggghhhshock, horror! A bird does not lay all her eggs in one day... so of course most chicks will have approximately 2 days difference between them. The chick arriving from the last egg to be laid is not the 'runt of the litter'. It may be up to 8 days younger than the first chick. That is a lot of difference in size for a little bird. That last hatching is the youngest, and may possibly grow up to be the biggest and strongest! Don't believe everything you are told. There are some scary myths out there. We regularly hear that birds won't accept chicks back once we have handled them. Do we accept our babies back after someone else has nursed them????

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
October 2013



Brush-tailed Phascogale

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Our possums, and birds, need to be moved on at the correct stage. It is cruel to keep animals in small cages when they should be enjoying the freedom of an aviary. Regular muscular development from an early age, through their growth stages, is important for their longterm survival in the wild. Consult your WILVO charts.

Welcome to all our new WILVO members. You have joined a great organization of wildlife carers.

Please take the time to visit this site and read past papers from Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conferences.. I am so often asked about subjects that are contained in these papers. There is a lot of misinformation on the internet but go to this site and much of this info is from wildlife carers and vets who work with our wildlife on a regular basis.....Donna

www.awrc.org.au