

BOOK YOUR WORKSHOPS ASAP TO FIND OUT DATE CHANGES.

# WILVOS WILDLIFE WHISPERINGS

FEBRUARY 2014



Donna Anthony

Welcome to all our new members. Hopefully everyone will be able to attend each of our WILVO workshops this year.

Dr Howard Ralph's training weekend on the 29th and 30th of March is a 'must' for all carers.

This workshop on "Fractures in Wildlife" is free for our members and for any veterinarians who may wish to attend.

I had the privilege of watching Howard repair a wallaby's fractured leg after his "Burns" workshop last year. His expertise saved this animal's life.

As carers we too can help towards a positive outcome by knowing correct procedures in those initial stages of rescue and care.

.....Donna

WILVOS & Friends...I hope everyone has a happy 2014 acquiring even more knowledge about our unique Australian wildlife and the environment.

As you can see from the above photo, not all native animals are cute and cuddly, but they are all incredibly fascinating. A young friend of mine had found three scorpions near his house and wanted to create a good habitat for them. This was done in the backyard on the earth floor at the end of the shed. They were not enclosed so were free to come and go as they chose. What a surprise to find this family under one of the rocks in the created habitat. I'm not sure how many scorplings were there but I wasn't going to upset Mum by getting close enough to count them! (There has only ever been one death recorded from scorpion bite in Australia.!)

Caring for wildlife is about that continual learning and awareness of our unique Australian fauna. Oh that everyone could have the thirst for knowledge that this eleven year old has, especially the decision makers in this country who are responsible for all our native animals and their habitat...Donna

**Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc**

**PO Box 2555**

**Nambour West Q 4560.**

**Ph: 07 54 416200**

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



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



**T**hank you to all our helpers on our community awareness stalls. These above girls—Bronwyn, Tara and Elizabeth— did a great job fundraising at the Maroochydore Pet Barn, to help victims of the New South Wales bushfires. Thank you Cathrin for co-ordinating this.

**T**hanks also to the wonderful Vanessa Starkey who initiated and completed the absolute marathon task of co-ordinating collection, sorting and distribution of veterinary supplies, bedding, cages, huge food donations including supplements, chaffs, grains and formulas etc for southern bushfire victims. Vanessa drove a trailer down to New South Wales and spent time out in the field in the time following the fires, when food drops were of the utmost importance and rescuers searched for any animals needing help. The help given by all those who gave of their time to help Vanessa was most appreciated. The support from local Sunshine Coast businesses was amazing.

Vanessa would like to thank our willing WILVO helpers, friends, and the following businesses: Tanawha Hay Shed, Little Mountain Produce, Animal House Beerwah, Kawana Waters Vet Clinic, Blank St Vets, Chancellor Park Vets, Palmwood Vets, Cooroy Vets, Noosa Animal Hospital, Noosa Heads Vet Clinic, Bli Bli Vet, Sunshine Coast Vet at Pomona (David Busby), Sippy Creek Refuge, Natural Vet Company, Natural Mineral Products, David Larkin Woolworths Noosaville, Graham Laney Woolworths Noosa Civic, and Richard Murrihy PETStock Noosaville. Storage was supplied by Tanawha Hay Shed along with pickups and muscle power—thank you Tahlia Nolan. We are very grateful also for transport to Victoria supplied by Lawrie Morgan from Morgans Long Distance Transport.

*“If I have forgotten to mention anybody I am sorry, you are certainly not insignificant, I just can’t recall everyone at this point. Sincere thanks to each and every helper and donor. This has been super successful, and many carers and wildlife patients will benefit from your kind heart.....Vanessa”*



**Small cages to give away.**  
Contact  
[paulawilsher@gmail.com](mailto:paulawilsher@gmail.com)

## NARGA RESCUE WEEK

Due to the recent tragic fires the date of the NARGA Rescue Week had been changed to **27th September to 3rd October 2014.**

Animal rescue groups across Australia are invited to take part in creating awareness of the plight of all animals needing rescue, by holding an event/s in this week. Ideas suggested—adoption drives, volunteer recruitment days, or open days.

Registration (with a fee of \$10) is due by the 30th June, and if groups can send in their advertising material by 7th July NARGA will place this on numerous websites and Facebook pages and advise schools and councils in the relevant areas.

If anyone is willing to take on this challenge and co-ordinate an event, please contact Donna.

## A plea from our release officers....

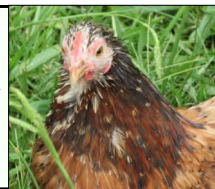
Could you please advise the release officer, preferably by email, a month before your animals are ready for release. Possums need to be in their homes for a month for them to relate to them as their home, so get them into housing early.

Brushtails should be in a box, ringtails in a drey made from 2 wire hanging baskets woven with native foliage, or in a handmade drey strong enough to hold the group of possums. Have your possums sealed off and inside a bag/doona cover ready for the release officer.

Needless to say they will have been on a diet of a huge variety of native foliage well before release.

If anyone wants to eliminate their ticks by getting some 'chooks', Jill Underdown has sent in details of an organization on the north side of Brisbane that rescues battery hens. Though these hens are still laying, it does take about a month of correct care to restore their good looks after their life of misery!

Contact Monique through [www.homesforhens.net](http://www.homesforhens.net)



Thank you to those who helped out our bat carers in their time of need. Thanks to our wonderful phone roster volunteers for handling the extra calls for all wildlife in this heatwave. There is always some way of helping, whether it be taking on the bat carer's other wildlife in care, cutting up food or providing dinner for the carers. Wildlife carers need to support each other as much as possible as times ahead will be even tougher, looking at the decisions made by our governments with no thought for the environment. World Heritage listing seems to hold little significance, so it is difficult to remain optimistic about the future of our wildlife and their habitat.

Keep fighting for our Barrier Reef and Tasmanian Forests—anywhere that needs people power!


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

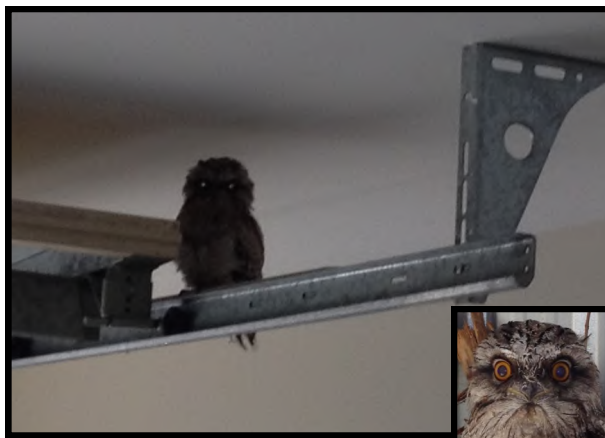
Thank you Rose for emailing out the weekly possum list, and Sarah for doing the same with the bird list.

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR CO-ORDINATORS EACH SUNDAY NIGHT WITH THE LIST OF THE BIRDS YOU HAVE IN CARE OR 'NIL' IF NONE IN CARE.**

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, though co-ordinators will help out by sending out requests to all carers.

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

 **CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW "Aussies"**  
**Kay Donald and Lindsay Hingston**



**Ooops!!!**

This sad little tawny was brought into care late one afternoon. He was very happy to sit and rest on a stump in the garage. Early next morning when I needed to go out on another rescue, the tawny frogmouth was nowhere to be seen. I was worried he could be under my car somewhere so did a thorough search.. I looked everywhere behind boxes and the usual wildlife rescue paraphernalia that decorates my garage.

I decided I'd open the garage door with the remote before I hopped in the car. That way I would see if he came out of hiding. Imagine my horror when I looked up just as the door had almost rolled up to dislodge the poor treasure! I hit the 'stop' button very quickly! I think I could write a book on the 'near misses' (and worse!) that have happened to wildlife in my care over the years.....Donna

A few people have asked about recommendations for using Painstop Daytime for pain relief in marsupials. (It is NOT for use with birds.) Store under 25 degrees but do not refrigerate.

Each 5 ml contains Paracetamol 120mg and Codeine Phosphate 5mg. The recommended dose rate from Dr Howard Ralph's notes was 1 ml of the syrup per 2.4kg of bodyweight.

On the Sunshine Coast we are very lucky to have the expertise of plenty of vets in most areas but those in more isolated areas need some form of pain relief if unable to get to a vet. At Howard's workshop last year he really stressed the importance of pain relief, not only from the point of rehabilitation but also from the animal welfare point. Even if we go to pick up an animal that is to be euthanized, a dose of Painstop Daytime can relieve the poor animal of pain in the time it takes to reach the closest vet.





Yes, that is our lovely WILVOS ex–secretary who somehow found the time to get married. Casey and Alex have been trying to plan it for some time but in between full-time work, and study applications, and trips to Borneo and Hawaii, not forgetting fundraising for the orangutans—even super-efficient Casey found it difficult to find time to fit in a wedding! We all wish Casey and Alex a long and happy life together. Two very special people!



**W**hat a beautiful little creature! This blue-tongue was brought to me after it had a very close call with a lawn mower. When a lady called me about a blue-tongued lizard that was possibly injured I was worried it may have been cat attack and need antibiotics immediately.

“No, it was my husband!”, she replied. Her husband had moved the kids wading pool to mow, and was very concerned that he may have injured the little skinks tail when he mowed over it.

Sylvia, a reptile carer from Nambour, promptly met me and with a little care from Sylvia and son Cale, this little blue-tongue lived to tell another tale...no pun intended!

POSSUM WORKSHOP 23RD FEB 1-4PM  
**DATE CHANGES:** BIRD WORKSHOP 16TH MARCH 1-4PM  
 INDUCTION/NEW CARERS 18TH MAY 10AM—1PM  
 RSVP TO [education@wilvos.org.au](mailto:education@wilvos.org.au) ASAP

## Feeding Our Wildlife

It is imperative that we feed our wildlife in care correctly. If fed an unbalanced diet the animal will suffer. With young animals, they are dependent on us doing the right thing. Near enough is not good enough. NO pet mince!

The bird diets in your manuals are tried and true diets. It is not our prerogative to change these....substituting ingredients just doesn't work. Growth defects will appear if dietary requirements aren't met. Calcium is also vital to growing bones.

Marsupials have to have the opportunity to graze. Grass in a bag is not enough. Exercise is necessary from a young age.

Reptiles cannot just be kept in a glass aquarium inside without correct light requirements. Don't we see them out basking in the sun?

Knowing the natural behavior of our wildlife species will help us to give them the best environment we can provide.

Whilst on the subject of feeding wildlife, I am puzzled by anyone feeding kangaroo meat to their wildlife in care. It is tragic enough seeing our national

emblem relegated to dog meat. If humans choose to eat kangaroo meat—well don't complain when some exotic transferable disease is found in the meat in the years to come!



**@**re the ants driving you crazy? Just place cucumber in their tracks. They disappear!

**T**he wine cask bladders are great warmers during winter but are just as effective as coolers in summer when filled with water and put in the freezer. Wrap in wet pillow case and place in aviaries or anywhere near animals in the heat.

**IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE CORRECT FAUNA RETURN (THE ONE WITH PLATYPUS ON IT) THEN ASK FOR NEW ONE TO BE EMAILED TO YOU.**

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 to the PO Box. 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).

**PLEASE NOTE:** 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—see details are in this newsletter.
- Release Officer must be advised prior to 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 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. The subsidy does not cover costs of expensive extra 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 certain species, they should not form a major part of the diet of wildlife in care. Marsupial carers will receive subsidy for their formula, not for items such as Impact.
- Subsidy will be assessed at the cheapest available price for the product.

It would be expected that those receiving the subsidy contribute in some way to the organization ie doing at least one shift a month on the phone, as all carers are expected to do. We are all extremely busy but it lightens the load when the chores are shared.

Thanks to Jo Waters who is never "too busy" to help if care or advice is needed for tiny pinkies, or a solution is needed for some weird macropod problem!



## OILS AIN'T OILS!!!



My ever enquiring mind worries about the amount of canola oil in late-stage marsupial milk formulas so found this information re human health interesting. What a myriad of conflicting facts are out there!.....Donna

*"Vegetable oil to avoid includes canola oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower, safflower, corn, soy, rice bran and grape seed oil, as well as all margarine. These oils raise the risk of macular degeneration as well as cataracts. The healthiest oils to include in your diet are extra virgin olive oil, coconut oil, macadamia or avocado oil, pastured butter or ghee and other animal fats. These fats are healthy because they are high in monounsaturated or saturated fatty acids, which do not create oxidative damage in the body like some polyunsaturated fats can."* Dr Sandra Cabot (Well known medical doctor and nutritionist)

Denise French rang through to Sippy Downs Animal Refuge as they had two little antechinus there needing a carer.

When Denise said she would collect them, the lovely vet said he would bring them to Denise as she did so much!

Thank you Angus Young! You made Denise's very hectic wildlife day just that little bit more rewarding!



On the WILVO membership form, members agree to their contact details being published on internal mailing and rescue contact lists.

If you have any objection to this, please phone Rose or Sarah or email enquiries@wilvos.org.au so this may be noted.

Many of our bird and marsupial carers would like email addresses displayed on the weekly mailout of animals in care. It is much easier and cheaper to contact each other by email than by phone to arrange grouping or passing on of wildlife.

## MILK FORMULA & FOOD

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

Please show your Membership Card when buying food for wildlife. Pet and produce shops may give a discount.

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

Supplements are just that!

10% discount Mad About Pets, Nambour

20% discount Petstock, Noosaville

These discounts are for wildlife food purchases. Show your membership card.





Our animals in care love their natural native foods while rehabilitating.

### Toileting marsupials

It is extremely important that our marsupials are toileted after each feed (or before if they won't drink first). They can end up with urinary infections and become constipated if this isn't done.

Creating a stress-free environment from the time of rescue may help to prevent such problems. Providing the correct diet for each species also prevents digestion issues.

Toileting isn't only necessary with such species as macropods and possums. Obviously any little marsupials need to be 'toileted'. In the case of bandicoots should a little one still appear to have a bloated abdomen, even though toileting normally, then it could be a more serious problem such as "Ascites". Read more of this in the following book: Any bloated abdomen should receive immediate attention.

"Bandicoots—Their Care and Handling" by Norma Henderson. This is well worth bookmarking, or printing out, and rereading when you get a rescue call for a bandicoot.

Go to [www.michaelandnorma.com](http://www.michaelandnorma.com) and look under Animals Downloadable PDF Docs & Presentations. There are good books for sale also.

These fascinating carnivores are amazing creatures, rearable from a furless stage. Sylvia's last little 15 gram bandicoots were adorable—all four of them successfully reared and released. Observing their nest building is a unique experience!



Another beautiful squirrel glider succumbs to death due to cat attack.

Please can everyone encourage people to confine their cats.

[www.catmax.com](http://www.catmax.com)

On this site you can see great examples of housing for our cats. If a ready-made house is out of the budget, they are easily and inexpensively built with either new wire or recycled materials.



Any funny, or interesting wildlife rescue stories—email Donna.

For a great tree that is loved by all possums—*Melaleuca armillaris* It can be kept pruned down to a hedge, which will happen if you have possums. They all love it! There are plenty of native shrub varieties suitable for suburban plantings.

Rosemary would love to hear from anyone who can help out for a couple of hours at the Nambour Collectorama on Saturday 1st March, 2014. It goes from 7am to 2.30pm so please give Rosemary a call now if you can lend a hand.

### Some interesting reading from Lyndall our Environment Officer:

An interesting website. Go to the right hand side of the page where a species list can be generated for a specific area. <http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/species-list/index.html>

Another interesting site is this Commonwealth Government site. The Home Page is also worth checking out: <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/about-us/legislation/environment-protection-and-biodiversity-conservation-act-1999/protected>

For more fascinating research visit: <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>

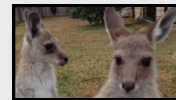
# WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION INC.

## WILVOS TEAM FOR 2013/14

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

**If you have trouble contacting anyone on the list call Sylvia or Donna.**

***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**

<b>*Chairperson:</b>	Sylvia Whiting	54 467760 0400 125807	chairperson@wilvos.org.au
<b>*Vice Chairs:</b>	Joyce Thompson	54 417658	joyglynn@bigpond.com
	Donna Anthony	0413 861757	donnalenoreanthony@hotmail.com
<b>*Secretary:</b>	Leslie Ayling	54417421 0437 637404	secretary@wilvos.org.au
<b>*Treasurer:</b>	Annette Buchanan	0418 194695	treasurer@wilvos.org.au

### **Co-Ordinating Team**

**Community Awareness/Schools:** Roslyn Leslie 54850056 pomonarozzie@bigpond.com

<b>Co-Ordinators:</b>	Birds: Sarah Powell	0402 369 057	slp007@student.usc.edu.au
	Marsupials: Rose Nation		wilvomarsupials@hotmail.com
	Reptiles: Jill Zimmerman	54781315 0411558827	wild_spirit5@yahoo.com.au
	Raptors: Jackie Fraser	54999057	

**Data Returns Co-Ordinator:** Tammy Read 54469205 0402806568 returns@wilvos.org.au  
**(Please email all electronic fauna and phone returns to returns@wilvos.org.au)**  
**Please send an email to this address or to Enquiries to request an electronic Returns Form template.**  
**Post handwritten forms to WILVOS PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560)**

**Enquiries:** Donna Anthony 0413 861757 enquiries@wilvos.org.au

**Environmental Officer:** Lyndall Pettett lyndall\_pettett@hotmail.com

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

**Media PR Co-Ordinator:** Donna Anthony 0413 861757 enquiries@wilvos.org.au

**Membership Secretary:** Sylvia Whiting 54 467760 0400 125807 membership@wilvos.org.au

**Minute Secretary:** Joyce Thompson 54 417658 joyglynn@bigpond.com

**Newsletter Editor:** Donna Anthony 0413 861757 newsletter@wilvos.org.au

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

Julie McLeish 0433 308851 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 pomonarozzie@bigpond.com

**Release Officer:** Paul Smith 54 438315 releases@wilvos.org.au

**Workshops Education Officer:** Cathrin Thodock 0499 739990 education@wilvos.org.au

**Volunteers:** We have a number of volunteers who have joined our team. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Sylvia or Donna. We are always looking for new volunteers to help with our projects.

**Training:** We offer training for new volunteers. This includes a day of training where you will learn about the association, the projects, and the safety procedures. We also offer ongoing training for specific projects.

**Volunteer Days:** We have a number of volunteer days throughout the year. These are days where you can help with our projects and meet other volunteers.

To become part of the Queensland state body for rehabilitation of wildlife, join the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council  
[www.qwrc.org.au](http://www.qwrc.org.au)

Please read the following regularly: The Code of Practice under which all wildlife carers work:  
[www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/caring-for-wildlife/code-of-practice.html](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/caring-for-wildlife/code-of-practice.html)

**P**lease 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](http://www.awrc.org.au)

**BOOK NOW FOR 2014 HOBART CONFERENCE**

**I**f you can be active in environmental campaigns please register as a supporter [www.scec.org.au/register-details](http://www.scec.org.au/register-details)

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 2014**



**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA**

**P**lease 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.

All membership enquiries to Sylvia.

**Always throw out old lists.**

