

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



February 2015



What am I?
What are we?
See back page.

Wildlife Volunteers
Association Inc
(WILVOS)
PO Box 2555 Nambour
West Q 4560.
Ph: 07 54 416200
www.wilvos.org.au

Don't forget to
look up
www.wilvos.org.au
to see the newsletter
in colour and read the
latest articles sent to
local newspapers.

WILVOS' Hotline Volunteer Team

Thoughts from Lyn Lovell



Volunteering a few hours a month on the WILVOS hotline phone to assist members of the public who have either come across an animal emergency or who just simply need some advice is a very rewarding experience for our team of enthusiastic "hotties". Callers are genuinely grateful for our assistance and at the end of our short shift we know that we've made a positive contribution to alleviate pain or stress in our native animals.

The majority of our calls are dealt with in 3 ways :

- Refer the caller to up to 3 carers on the Contact List who can assist—**always** asking the caller to phone back if they can't reach anyone. If this occurs, then the 'hottie' will ring around to find a solution;
- If the wildlife is suffering life threatening/obvious injury, refer the caller to a nearby vet on the Contact List. This option is only if wildlife obviously need a vet. Explain that the vets have our contact list of wildlife carers, and the vets will not charge them for taking the animal there;
- General commonsense advice (usually learned at one of the WILVOS workshops):

We're always looking for more helpers who can donate some time, even on a casual basis for emergencies when someone who's rostered on just can't make that shift. Training is available, and other hotliners/carers are only a phone call away when you need help. If you have some spare time to assist in this important work we'd love to hear from you. Call Rosemary Dax on 5475 4455. She'll be only too happy to hear from you. Roslyn will be very happy to train you!

A huge 'Thank You' to all our hotline volunteers! Sometimes it is not easy to find someone to pick up injured or orphaned wildlife so please help our hotline volunteers by helping out wherever possible—whether it by pickups, or telling the 'hottie' you will find someone if unable to help yourself. Lyn.

Editors note: Thank you Lyn. We can't keep everyone happy all the time but I am proud of our WILVO hotline volunteers. It can be very stressful trying to find a carer but the member of the public does appreciate the fact that we tell them to call back if they haven't been able to reach someone to help them. It gives us the challenge of finding an available carer, but then we all like a challenge or we wouldn't be looking out for our wildlife!

I heard someone make some small criticism about our hotline the other day to Sylvia, our Chairperson. Listening to her response was like a mama bear defending her cubs!

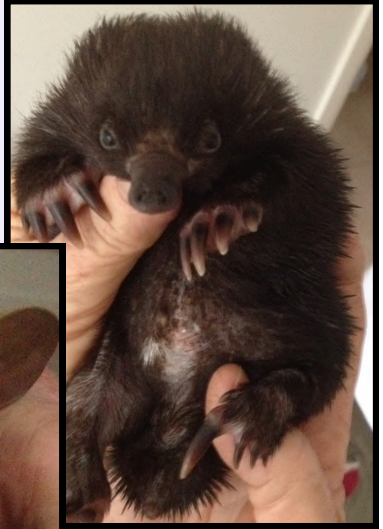
Thank you all for your dedication and commitment on the hotline. I hope you too can all make it to our workshops as they are a great source of knowledge about our wildlife. Thank you Lyn for also taking on the bird co-ordinators role.....Donna

It has been a busy start to the new year with a large variety of wildlife coming through in the first month, with an increasing number from Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and the RSPCA Wacol. There is a shortage of wildlife carers! Among the orphaned and injured wildlife, there have been bandicoots, a variety of birds, possums, gliders, echidnas, water dragons, kangaroos, wallabies and even a pademelon which is such a cuddly handful, and he was so lucky that a Pomona family took a Sunday drive to Jimna. They stopped and checked the pouch of the dead mother on the road. It just takes one person to make a difference.

The day prior to this a young Nambour man was heading home at 3am and saw a dead wallaby on the road not far from the hospital. He had listened to advice given previously from a wildlife carer (Thank you Chloe Stokes!) on what to do in such a situation. When I went to collect the little swamp wallaby, Josh had it all wrapped up and cosy, at just the right temperature for a tiny pinkie.

These good people not only save the life of an animal, they save it from untold suffering.

Thank you! Keep spreading the word!



It would be difficult to pick the cutest of these two sad little orphaned handfuls. It is tragic to see our wildlife impacted upon in so many different ways.

Thank you to Sheila Robinson for this tip:

Those little squeeze pouches of baby fruit or yoghurt make great hot and cold packs. Just wash out and 3/4 fill with hot water from the tap or put in the freezer for a cool pack.

A warning from Sheila: Watch out for stink bugs! While collecting nuts from the tuckeroo trees for her birds, Sheila was 'squirted' in the eye and it ended up being quite a drama and also quite painful.

Bronwyn West was recently 'bitten' by a stink bug, while collecting foliage, and was surprised at how much it hurt and itched afterwards.

It is more like a chemical burn and can be quite painful. It may help to rinse under hot water and apply vinegar or baking soda. As with any bite, monitor for an allergic reaction.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS:

I hope you have a long and happy commitment to our unique Australian wildlife.

Don't forget to book for Dr Anne Fowler's workshops. These days are suitable for all carer levels and help retain a consistency of care between WILVO carers.
Have your questions ready for Anne!

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL DETAILS:

When you receive animals from AWH please advise them when an animal dies, is released, or is passed to another carer.

Quote the Accession no. from the pink slip and, if applicable, the details of the next carer.

hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au
or **phone 54 362 066**

BIRD HANDREARING WEIGHT, CROP SIZE, NEEDLE SIZE

From Vetafarm Website

www.vetafarm.com

SPECIES	Body Weight	Crop Size	Needle Size
Finch	12-20g	0.5mL	18 gauge
Canary	20-25g	0.5mL	18 gauge
Budgie	35-50g	1-2mL	16 gauge
Neophema	40-50g	1.5-2.5mL	16 gauge
Cockatiel	80-90g	4-5mL	14 gauge
Eastern Rosella	80-110g	5-10mL	12 gauge
Princess Parrot	100-120g	5-10mL	12 gauge
Galah	300-350g	10-20mL	10 gauge
White Cockatoo	600-900g	30-50mL	8 gauge
Pigeon	300-500g	30-60mL	8 gauge

Recommended YouTube vides from Vetafarm:

- Mixing Hand-rearing Formula
- How to Cropfeed I
- How to Cropfeed II
- Calcium in Birds.

If you get a call for a fledgling that is on the ground and in possible danger, it is recommended that it come into care short-term until able to fly adequately, and then returned. Monitor it on its return.

As their veterinarian Dr Tony Gestier says on the “Calcium in Birds” video. *“It has been known since the 1890’s that birds need calcium so why are we still talking about it?”*

Needless to say calcium is of utmost importance for growing birds, as it is with growing children.

To be ignorant of one's ignorance is the malady of the ignorant. - Amos Bronson Alcott

Our own personal records are so important in animal care.

Six months, or six years, down the track you could be scratching your head and remembering that another animal had these same symptoms some time before.

Record what medication, and the dose rate, was administered by the vet. Record whether treatments were successful or unsuccessful.

Your daily feed record sheets can be drawn up in whatever format you prefer. Some carers prefer to handwrite these while others may enter them straight into their computer. Basically they need to contain date, time, weight, amount of food/milk/water, along with urine and faeces output and comments on how well they fed and behavioural changes. Note should any stress events occur.

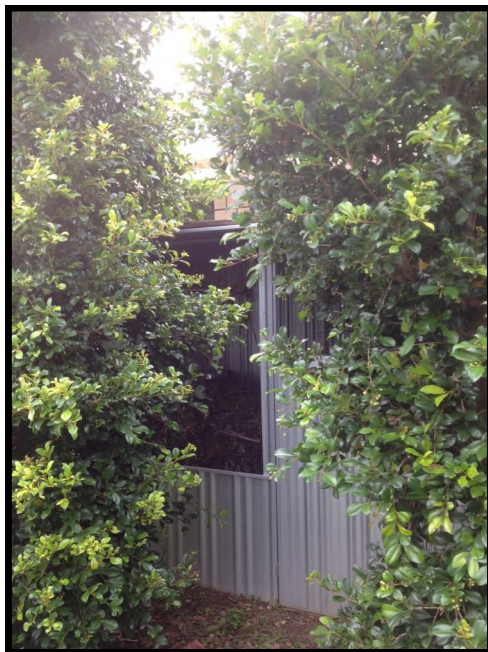
These records are a big help to you and to your vet in tracking back to the beginning of an illness.

The weight of an animal when it comes into care is also helpful. We can get to know what weight to expect from an adult magpie, lorikeet or kookaburra, in our particular area, as interstate charts may not necessarily relate to our Queensland wildlife. Of course, while wildlife are in care, regular weight gain is a good indication of healthy rehabilitation. A sudden cessation in weight increase, or weight loss, may be consistent with some major problem.

Always treat any change as important. ***“If you think something is wrong, then there usually is something wrong”.*** (Wise words from Sylvia Whiting) Act immediately and trust your own instincts!

<http://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Resources.aspx>

Visit this website for the latest in wildlife information and resources. Subscribe to the weekly digest to keep up with breaking news on the wildlife front.



The long stretch of hot weather was tough on humans and animals. Those wine cask bladders of water in the freezer came in handy. Wrapped in wet towels they help keep wildlife comfortable in the aviaries. An indoor outdoor thermometer allows carers to monitor the temperature in their animals' environment without disturbing them. We are so lucky in this corner of the world. We can have native trees planted and growing over the top of aviaries in a couple of years. Trees inside the aviary can sometimes have a longer battle!

Don't forget the Reptile Handling at Jill Zimmerman's place on the 15th February. This is highly recommended. There is a limit to numbers so book now. Loved your "Totally Wild" segments, Jill. Well done! A great education to all.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that we shouldn't discount internal parasites if possums are fed adequately but aren't putting on weight. Though a native foliage diet needs to be the majority, mulberry leaves can also be beneficial. I've used them in the past with livestock as they were recognized as a natural 'wormer'. They also have a high mineral content so are nutritious as well. Possums find the young branches and leaves very palatable. If an aviary size possum is not putting on weight. There is a reason for it. Sometimes they are just ready to leave captivity behind!. Get a faecal check and worm if recommendedDonna

If you haven't rejoined by now, Sylvia will have taken you off the membership list. Try to remember at the end of June 2015 to rejoin as soon as possible to save our membership secretary having to send reminders and respond to requests for a new invoice.

All wildlife carers need to have a packet of this in the freezer for any birds that come in. (Recipe 3 in your bird Caring Manual). Emergency food needs to be on hand as often birds are starving by the time they reach us, and they hopefully warm up slowly but surely, by the time the food is thawed out. Identification of the species should be done as soon as possible but this recipe can be fed until that is established.

It is sometimes expected that birds such as figbirds will only eat fruit, but if only fruit is fed the figbird won't thrive and the result is that the fruit that is fed comes out the other end looking the same as when it went in. This is not a good thing! It means the digestive processes aren't working well. Add some of this meat mix recipe to their diet and you will see the difference! When birds feed in the wild, or are fed by parents, a considerable amount of meat is fed in the form of insects. I know someone who has a bug zapper and birds come in and eat all the dead bugs every morning.



Bird recipe (Usually need to double this amount.)

1/4 apple
1/4 carrot
1/2 cup premium mince or minced oxheart
3 tablespoons Egg and Biscuit
2 tablespoons Insectivore

Growing chicks require a calcium:phosphorous ration of 2:1

Approx 2% of weight of above in calcium powder. (this may vary for age of bird and for product used).
Vitamins as advised. (1:200)

ROLL OUT IN A LARGE ZIPLOCK BAG, SCORE WITH THE BACK OF A LARGE KNIFE SO IT LOOKS LIKE BLOCKS OF CHOCOLATE AND THEN IT IS EASY TO BREAK OFF AND DEFROST WHEN NEEDED.

Please read the following regularly—The Code of Practice under which all wildlife carers work:

www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/caring-for-wildlife

I know for many that paperwork is the least liked aspect of wildlife caring but it is necessary. Below is a refresher on the record keeping section of the Code of Practice. from one who loathes paperwork, but has managed to get Returns in immediately at the end of each month for almost a year. Sometimes a struggle, but I am now committed. It is a worse scenario for me to get behind with record keeping— because then it is a nightmare catching up on the backlog.....Donna

Code of Practice Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland
Page 22 of 29 • 130618 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

16. Records

16.1 Objective

16.1.1 To maintain comprehensive records of sick, injured or orphaned wildlife admissions, disposals and management while in care. These records can be used to track and review individual case histories and identify trends and represent a useful resource for rehabilitators, regulators, veterinarians, educators and research organisations.

16.2 Standards

16.2.1 A register must be kept by each wildlife rehabilitator for all protected animals rescued or cared for including:

16.2.1.1 date of admission or rescue

16.2.1.2 identifying number or name

16.2.1.3 reason for rescue

16.2.1.4 species

16.2.1.5 approximate age or age class (neonate, juvenile, sub-adult, adult, aged)

16.2.1.6 sex (M, F, Unknown)

16.2.1.7 exact location of rescue

16.2.1.8 brief description of health or injuries

16.2.1.9 treatments

16.2.1.10 relevant observations (behaviour, diet, general progress)

16.2.1.11 regular weights

16.2.1.12 final outcome (released, died, euthanased, permanent care, transferred to another person/organisation)

16.2.1.13 date of final outcome

16.2.1.14 if transferred to another person or organisation, to whom.

16.2.2 if an animal is transferred to another rehabilitator, copies of relevant records must accompany the animal.

16.2.3 all records must be maintained in a form that can be readily examined, analysed and clearly understood, and be made available to a conservation officer upon request.

The Lion Sonic Animal Repellers to help prevent vehicle impact are available at hardware stores or they will order them in for you.

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES :

Milk Powder, Teats, Bottles, pouches/car carry bags for possums and macropods, Oxbow Critical Care, Wild Forage (brilliant product for any recovering wildlife) or Charcoal Powder. Enquiries: Phone/Email Donna.

Possum Boxes/ Dreys available when animals reach size requiring same.. Phone/Email Sylvia.

Humidicribs are available for loan, after 28th February, but must be signed for and returned after use, cleaned and ready for reuse. Phone/Email Sylvia.

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

The best food we can give our animals is what they would be eating in the wild. Supplement foods are just that!

Needless to say there are supplements such as Calcium that are necessary.

10% discount Mad About Pets, Nambour

20% discount Petstock, Noosaville

For details of Food Subsidy Scheme email enquiries@wilvos.org.au

Well, well, well!
Look what Sarah
Hobson (Powell)
rescued! A beautiful
baby girl, Indiah.

**Congratulations
Sarah and Joe!**

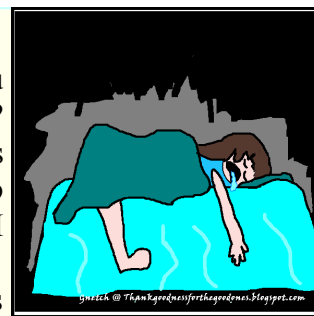


IDEAS PLEASE???

As 2015 moves along quickly, what ideas do you have for improving the WILVOS organization? Want me to retire—now there's a good idea! - yes please, I'm happy to pass on my chores to someone else so I can spend more time with what I love most—wildlife, and a little sleeping!

WILVOS have an aviary loan system for members who have been in the organization for at least six months and have shown commitment to caring for wildlife. WILVOS also subsidize food for wildlife carers. (Thank you to the very generous Suncoast Social Dance Club who continue to contribute to this).

Email ideas to secretary@wilvos.org.auDonna



Some carers often ask about a 'buddy' system. WILVOS actually have a mentoring system that works well. If it's not working for you, then contact Sylvia who will arrange someone to help you with the particular animal. At the induction/new carers workshops new carers are encouraged to contact carers in their area, and are asked if they wish to go on the contact list working with another experienced wildlife carer. They then call Sylvia or Donna when wildlife come into care, who will go through the assessment process with them, and they will direct them to the person most suitable to help them. The mentor will be someone who attends workshops, follows regulations, is up to date with the latest methods of care and is happy to interact with other carers.

With our amazing technology today mentors don't necessarily have to be close by but it is good to get to know the carers in your area. Photos can be exchanged for identification initially, and all care advice given until a meeting is arranged. This saves time and gets the wildlife on track as soon as possible. Many carers have to work so immediate contact can't always be achieved. If the same carer gets a different bird species in the next time, then a different 'buddy' might be allocated, one more experienced in this particular species..

If anyone out there doesn't feel they have enough support then please email or phone Sylvia or Donna and help can be arranged.

'Smart' phones are not only good for taking photos, but also good for recording the GPS location of injured or orphaned wildlife.

This is a Community Wildlife Project provided by the Australian Wildlife Carer's Network. It is a Wildlife Incident Mapping site where you can record roadkill of any native species.

<http://awcn.org/mapping/>

I am not surprised, but I am upset, that the Music Festival at the Big Pineapple site is once again going ahead this year, despite last year's assurances from the wildlife regulators and various animal welfare organizations that it would not be held there again this year, and that animals confined in Queensland Zoo would not be effected by the noise.

I wasn't gullible enough to believe them but I hoped I was wrong.

The Music Festival is a great idea, but why allow it to be held in close proximity to animals which have no escape. Other music festivals are held outside of suburban environs so why not this one. If I subjected my wildlife in care to these noise levels I would have my Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit revoked.

I can't fully express my anger in a WILVOS newsletter but I will continue my battle, as a Sunshine Coast resident, on this issue. Let's see what platitudes are offered this year!

Two ridiculous quotes in last year's Sunshine Coast Daily from one of the organizers after the event showed the lack of respect and understanding of wildlife behaviour:- ***"They (the kangaroos) looked like they were dancing", "The koalas also looked great with their fluffy leopard earmuffs."***Donna

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WILVOS organization but all contributions are welcome.
Send in photos and stories of your wildlife. Closing date 15th April 2015.

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. (WILVOS) Team for 2014/15

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

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*

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

Co-Ordinating Team

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

Co-Ordinators: Birds: Lyn Lovell wilvosbirds@gmail.com
Marsupials: Mae Connor wilvomarsupials@hotmail.com
Reptiles: Jill Zimmerman 54781315 0411558827 jill@wildspiritsnakes.com.au
Raptors: Jackie Fraser 54999057

Data Returns Co-Ordinator: Cathrin Thodock 0499 739990 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 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
Lyn Lovell 0421 853007 lynlovell@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 pomonaroozie@bigpond.com

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

Workshop Bookings: Cathrin Thodock 0499 739990 education@wilvos.org.au

Website for State Disaster Management Plan:

http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/About_Disaster_Management/DM_arrangments.html

http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/About_Disaster_Management/DM_Act.html

To become part of Queensland state body for rehabilitation of wildlife, join the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council www.qwrc.org.au

The Membership goes from January to January and costs \$20

This covers registered wildlife carers for personal accident insurance.

Please take the time to visit this site and read past papers from the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conferences which are held every 2 years. There is great care information for all to read.

www.awrc.org.au



The photo on the front page is of two very lucky lorikeet chicks.

Scrub was cleared on the new highway near Cooroy. The next day when the felled timber was all being pushed up into heaps, the workers found the chicks. Hungry and sad they soon recovered with warmth and sustenance.

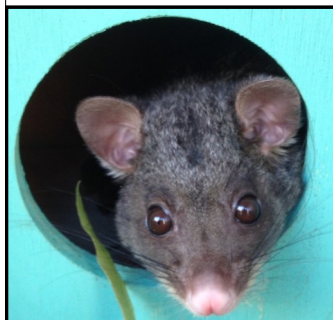


TELL ALL YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO PUT HOTLINE NUMBER 54 416200 IN THEIR MOBILE PHONE.

Don't forget birds moving into an aviary need extra food to cope with increased activity levels.

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

Print Post approved
PP100019524
Wilvos Wildlife Whisperings
February 2015



**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

At the risk of sounding like a broken record: The animals that come to WILVOS carers are our responsibility until their release. They are not to be passed to other organizations or private permit holders, without consulting a committee member first. If you cannot find animals of the same species, if they need grouping, then please ring Sylvia and she is sure to know if there are any in care and will also give advice on same. It is not acceptable that animals are passed around through social media sites as if they were a household item on gumtree.com. With birds and marsupials, look up your latest list to see who has the same species. Then YOU phone/email the other carers and organize your animals. Then advise the coordinator the following week of what you have in care. The coordinators will put out messages if someone wants some temporary care arranged or an animal to be passed on, but it is up to the carer to find someone. Often people will read the messages from the coordinator but won't offer to help, thinking someone else will probably do it. Nevertheless, if asked, most will willingly help if space is available.