

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings

May 2015



Our thoughts have been with those in New South Wales over the past weeks. There has been such terrible weather, bringing devastating damage to so many.



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 each fortnight.

IT'S GETTING TO THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN—RENEWING MEMBERSHIP! DUE 30TH JUNE 2015!

Please note: This years membership has increased to \$20, but with a \$5 discount if you pay by the 31st July. If you rejoin in time there is no change in cost. Hopefully this will succeed as a motivational tactic!

Why is it so??? We are hoping this will make life easier for our membership secretary who has to chase up carers to rejoin if they wish to retain their rehabilitation permit. (As required by legislation.) Some carers don't know if they've paid, and procrastinate for over six months. Then when they have paid, membership renewal time comes up soon after, and the response is, "Haven't I already paid?"! Not a wonder the poor membership secretary looks a little frazzled sometimes!

YOUR INVOICES WILL BE ARRIVING IN THE NEXT MONTH—SO PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM **INTACT** EVEN IF THERE ARE NO DETAIL CHANGES. IF YOU PAY BY EFT STILL EITHER POST BACK, OR SCAN AND EMAIL THE INVOICE BACK TO membership@wilvos.org.au This makes it easier for Sylvia to process payments for renewal of memberships.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please phone **Rosemary on 5475 4455** if you can help on the following community awareness stalls:

Sat 30th May Nambour Collectorama
Sun 7th June World Environment Day Festival
Sun 27th June Noosa Festival of Water

If you can help out for a few hours at the WILVOS stall at the Nambour Garden Expo on the 10th 11th and 12th July **phone/email Donna.**

Pick up a supply of brochures so you can hand one out when you collect wildlife.

Encourage the person to become involved, as they usually care about wildlife to make that phone call to WILVOS in the first place.

Explain that training is given in wildlife caring, and if they can't do that initially, then we always love to have people help out on the hotline!

WERE YOU AT THE DR ANNE FOWLER TRAINING WEEKEND??? Please contact Donna to get Insectivore at a very discounted price. Check out previous newsletters on www.wilvos.org.au for details of regular food subsidies and food supplies.

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)

PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560.

Ph: 07 54 416200

www.wilvos.org.au

As always, a training weekend with Dr Anne Fowler was a very learning experience. Because Anne works with wildlife regularly, she always brings new ideas and methods of rehabilitation along with her veterinary expertise. Thank you to those who came and showed they cared about our wildlife. This years slogan was

“The Challenge is Change!”

My writing is totally illegible so this time I took notes on my phone that I could easily move to this newsletter. The predictive text did confuse me in places but it was a great way to take notes on the day. No—I wasn't texting and emailing all day—I was taking notes!!! I'm going to copy my notes as 'dot points' and try to get out as much information as I can for those carers who couldn't get there. Shame on you!



- Don't stake your animals life on internet forums - not the place to get expert advice! Always check with your vet.
- Fresh water daily.
- There are no bread, milk or cheese trees out there. Why feed this to birds?
- White wire in cages is stressful. Use black wire.
- Beware of allergic alveolitis which comes from the bird dander protein.
- Wet newspaper by spraying with water before removing it from cages—aids in prevention of psittacosis etc
- Place the cage in the car with the perch at 90 degrees to the direction of travel so that a bird can step sideways easily and not have the backwards and forwards movement.
- Use a thermometer to keep a check on the bird while travelling in the car.
- Don't put the bird on sunny side of the car.
- Before taking an animal to the vets, feed no closer than 4 hours before if there is a chance the bird may need to be anaesthetised.
- For a bird that is not feeling too strong, a pool noodle cut to size is good to put in the bottom of basket or cage as a perch. This allows bird to be off the ground but it is easier for it to maintain balance.
- A basic requirement for an orphaned or sick bird is warmth, so provide a heat source.
- Once stable a bird under 300g needs an aviary 4m X 2m to become fit before return to the wild.
- Magpie families have their own distinctive family song.
- Fennel tea is a crop and appetite stimulant.

- Weigh birds on arrival and daily to check there is weight gain. Females weigh heavier than males
- 10 to 15% of birds weight should be the minimum amount fed daily. If no weight gain, then feed more. Chicks should gain weight rapidly.
- Feed chicks food at a temperature of 40°
- Clean cages with soap and water and then disinfect. F10 is a good disinfectant. It is under \$30 for 200ml which would last a long time. Share cost with another carer.
- Hold birds in pistol grip. No fingers around chest, 'pinch' head with thumb on ear, fingers tilted down.
- Use a towel to control wings while holding bird.
- Red urine is indicative of heavy metal poisoning.
- Skull injuries will become infected and fatal very quickly if not covered.
- Do a quick daily check on birds in care.
- Feed grass with seeds still green for best nutrition.
- Dandelion and milk thistle are good nutritious feed.
- Always use eye protection while handling water birds.
- A galah can spend 4 hours daily sharpening its beak.
- Make up your icecubes (15ml approx) of lori mix and insectivore/meat mixes. Weigh the cube and then you know just how much you will be feeding when you thaw out a cube of food.
- Weigh your food. Yes, weigh that mouse!
- Gum tree blossoms are great natural food but are often up high. Flowers from callistemon, grevillea etc also provide nectar.
- 70% of a young magpies diet will be earthworms—a good calcium source.
- Take out the mealworms you are going to feed and put them in pollard to gutload.
- Crickets need to gutload for 2 days. Feed insect booster or Insectpro. Nutritious food for them means nutritious food for your bird ie greens such as kale, vegetables such as carrots/sweet potato.
- Asian geckos may be used for food.
- If fracture is in ulna, wing is like a hand hanging down.
- If fracture is in humerus, whole wing hangs down.



- Shoulder fracture can be described as bird's posture looking like the bra strap has been cut.
- Fractures need to be treated within 24 hours.
- Clean with 0.9% saline.
- Should a cat attack be suspected then Clavulox is needed,
- A head injury can lead to 10% dehydration over 24 hours.
- If mild head trauma, don't release before 3 days.
- If there is moderate head trauma and no improvement in six days then euthanasia is recommended.
- Any phosphate free dishwashing detergent is suitable for washing oiled birds. (Check with SeaWorld or Penguin World for most up-to-date treatment for oiled birds.)
- The pox virus will affect young birds often after drought.
- Don't use iodine or betadine near the eyes.
- With migrating birds, the prevalence of collision with high rise buildings could lead to the loss of species. In America almost a billion birds annually are killed by impact with buildings—low rise and high rise.
- Calcium EDTAN now not used.
- Egg tooth indicates chick is no older than 25 hours.
- Use glass feeding dishes so birds don't identify with coloured plastic dishes. This could lead to them going to cat and dog dishes in the yard.
- Bird feeders are a good way to put lori mix out for lorikeets so they don't make a mess with it. Don't leave wet food out for more than half an hour.....*more next issue!*



Many were surprised when Anne spoke of the native noisy miners (*Manorina melanoccephala*) being listed as a Key Threatening Process. It is rather tragic that habitat destruction has led to the noisy miners population increase in some areas, to the extent that it is to the detriment of other small bird species. Even more tragic should the solution be to cull the birds. Wouldn't it be more beneficial to restore suitable habitat immediately? Wouldn't it be more beneficial to deal with the feral Indian Mynas, cats, toads and foxes as a priority? What happens when the numbers of noisy miners decrease and another bird species takes over as the aggressor. Will we cull them too???

The following are instructions for use of Insectivore from the Wombaroo website, and as advised by Gordon Rich at the recent Anne Fowler training weekend.



Gordon Rich looking like an MKR contestant as he mixed the bird recipes!

Suggested feeding guidelines are presented below. Do not add vitamin, mineral or concentrated food supplements to these

diets, as this may seriously alter the balance of nutrients. Prepare food fresh daily.

To feed as a 50/50 meat mix

Mix 5g (2 teaspoons) of Insectivore Rearing Mix per 10g of minced meat or fish.

A little moisture may be necessary to moisten the preparation. Always use good quality meat as a base.

This is a versatile and nutritionally balanced mix that can be used to supplement magpies, ravens, tawny frogmouths, raptors & seabirds. Do **not** add any other supplements.

To feed with Hard-boiled Egg

Mix 20g (2 tablespoons) of Insectivore with 1 mashed Hard-boiled egg (50g).

Mash the egg with a fork and then slowly add the Insectivore Rearing Mix and gently turn into a crumbly mass.

This is an ideal supplement for softbills such as wrens, robins and chats as well as waterbirds including plovers, rails and waders. Mix with live food such as mealworms, termites or fly pupae to encourage intake. Many canary, finch and parrot breeders also offer this soft food mix to their nesting birds.

EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES :

Milk Powder, Teats, Bottles, pouches/car carry bags, Oxbow Critical Care, Wild Forage, or Charcoal Powder. Enquiries: Phone/Email Donna.

Possum Boxes/Dreys/Humicribs Phone/Email Sylvia.

Pet and produce shops may give a discount. Please show your Membership Card.

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

10% discount Mad About Pets, Nambour
20% discount Petstock, Noosaville

Leslie enjoyed a wild and whacky night at the Asylum Café in Nambour, helping to raise funds for the RSPCA as well as manning a WILVOS community awareness stall. This was on the Saturday night of the Anne Fowler training weekend, so that was a marathon effort. Thank you Leslie!
Thanks also to Karla and all at the Asylum Café in Currie Street



Left: Leslie entertaining the crowd!

Below left: Anthony Lustri, (Alt Journal Editor-in-chief), Karla Baker (La Fae Divine), (Manager of Asylum Clothing, Burlesque Headmistress of The Asylum Dollhouse), and Luke Rodgers, (Owner of Asylum Clothing, Roar Beans coffee, Alt Journal and Next level Promotions.)



Photos: Korsos Photography



Photo above: Leslie rushed home from the Anne Fowler bird training to set up a WILVOS information stall at The Asylum After Dark Art & Burlesque night.

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**

Possum carers: Get to know your native plants. Some are toxic. Feed at least 8 varieties of foliage each day. If one is poisonous, there is less likelihood of a possum eating it. Many plants such as Poison Peach may be safe for birds to eat the fruit, but lethal to mammals. Why? Is this nature's way of distributing the seed further afield?

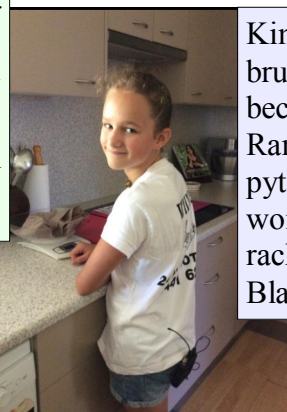
AVOID! Poison Peach *Trema tomentosa* Used in revegetation. Small green flowers, black fruit.



Photo: Robert Whyte

Meanwhile, let's not forget our young members!

The Ch 10 Totally Wild crew visited Misty & Rob Bland's house to find out their thoughts on wildlife



Kim introduced the TW crew to George the little brushtail possum. Eddie's bearded dragon also became a star, along with Sheila the carpet python. Ranger Stacey talked to Kim about the rescue python from AWH that Dad was treating for worms, while the guinea fowl made their usual racket in the background, as a reminder of the Bland South African heritage!



Please visit the site below to support Kim and Eddie's father, Rob, and Rare Cancers Australia.



<http://www.rarecancers.org.au/my-fundraising/96/vintage-calendar-girls>

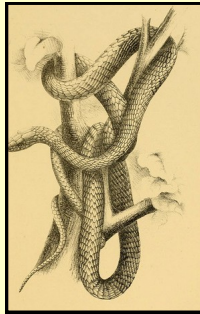
NEVER A DULL MOMENT ON THE HOTLINE

While on hotline recently, Lyn was called for advice about a green treesnake that was caught on the barbed wire of a fence, with some of the snake hanging free. The other part of the snake had disappeared down a kookaburras mouth. The kookaburra was just hanging in midair with wings flapping! The caller was worried that if she tried to pull the snake out that the birds insides might be damaged!

Thinking, thinking! Lyn rang around for further advice. (It doesn't matter how many years we've been doing the hotline for, those calls will come in where you need to call someone else to talk the solution over.) As the snake was already dead, one suggestion was to cut the snake off so kookaburra could take off and have one half, already down his neck, for entre and come back for main course, once the remainder was freed from the barbed wire!

Another suggestion was for a brave person to get bird and snake inside a pillow case/ doona cover and take it to vet for safe removal.

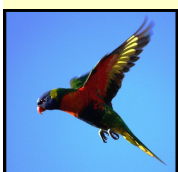
Meanwhile, the kookaburra knew exactly what it was doing. Within the ten minutes it took for Lyn to ring the caller back, the bird had finished ingesting the snake and had flown away! Poor snake!



Meanwhile, on Jeanette's hotline shift:

"Is this one of the more unusual rescues?" A Coolum couple were bringing a Rainbow Lorikeet to me, which had fallen into their trailer.

On the way, their young daughter opened the lid of the box. The lorikeet escaped and ended up under the dashboard. On arrival at my house it was tucked so far up under the dash, and all I could see was a bit of green tail feather! Eventually



extracted with no harm to the bird, but a few bitten fingers, the lorikeet still seemed fine next morning."

Further investigation and some TLC from Jeanette and the bird was soon returned.

Another day on Hotline made Jeanette very appreciative of the help from members of the public.

"A couple of weeks ago I was rostered on the 3-9 pm hotline shift. I was left with a great appreciation of the human race at the end of the shift as even though there were only five calls, all were regarding animals needing help quickly. In each case the caller was willing to do what was necessary so the animal was attended to, even though it sometimes meant a bit of a drive because not many places are open on a Saturday. How good is that?"

Editors note: Jeanette, don't forget you are only allowed 4 weeks away when you go on holidays in May. We'll miss your volunteering on the hotline and your bird rescuing and caring!

I have been asked to reproduce this email to me from Leslie, our "Mail Thingo Girl" ie Secretary! It so aptly describes our newsletter folding days! We sound like a group of daycare mothers chatting about our charges.....Donna

Hi Donna, I just wanted to Thank You for our Newsletter Special Workshop days:) Although I don't always make it there - the days that I do are very memorable.

It is soo great to be able to achieve a goal (get Newsletter mailed out), yet still have an extremely enjoyable time—chatting, eating your homemade goodies (or the bought ones???) and spending time with "like minded people".

Whether it be catching up with Kay, Marilyn, Judy, Cathrin, and of course "our Fearless Leader - Sylvia - a most vital part of the day. I have shared many Happy times with a lot of our wonderful people !

I have very happy memories of sharing our assigned project for the day - ie: folding newsletters, contact lists and/or workshop forms and the like, then sitting on them to flatten them for easier sorting/mailing, and laughing about who could flatten the most!??? Among so many other personal, social and of course Wildlife related subjects. You are a Braver Woman than most people that I've ever known and it is amazing how much you achieve in just one day.

Thank You for being our Newsletter Editor, vice Chair, Awarded Wildlife Carer, Newspaper/TV Celebrity, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera !!!

Your home is beautiful and homely and the Wildlife art and ornaments that you have around are testamont to your devotion to our precious Wildlife, as well as making it a comfortable place for us "animal weirdos".

Thanks Again Donna for letting us into your home.

I would encourage any other members to join in this worthwhile experience. Just let Donna know !!!!

With best wishes

Leslie Ayling

Mail Thingo Girl

This is important information for carers and phone roster personnel.

Extract from “Australian bat lyssavirus and handling bats” May 2013.

Department of Justice and Attorney General.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland.

Post-exposure protocols

If a person sustains a bat bite or scratch, or if bat saliva or neural tissue comes into contact with a person's broken skin, the affected area should be washed thoroughly with soap and water for at least five minutes. A virucidal antiseptic such as povidone-iodine, iodine tincture, aqueous iodine solution or alcohol (ethanol) should be applied to the area after washing.

If the exposure involves the person's mucous membranes (eyes, nose or mouth), the area should be flushed thoroughly with water.

Immediate medical advice should be sought as booster doses of rabies vaccine are likely to be necessary – called ‘post exposure prophylaxis’. This is important regardless of previous rabies vaccination, the severity of the wound, the bat species involved or whether or not the bat appears sick.

People who have received pre-exposure prophylaxis require a further two doses of rabies vaccine following a potential exposure.

People who have not received pre-exposure prophylaxis require rabies immunoglobulin and a course of four doses of rabies vaccine following a potential exposure. Any person who has an immunocompromising illness or who is on immunosuppressant medication will require a further (fifth) dose of vaccine and follow up blood tests to confirm their immunity.

The bat can be collected for laboratory examination to test for ABLV infection if this can be done without placing other people at risk of exposure. Only a vaccinated person who is trained in bat handling and has suitable PPE should collect the bat. **Contact the local Public Health Unit to arrange for bat collection.**

Sick, injured and orphaned bats

Anyone who finds a sick, injured or orphaned bat should not touch it. Contact a local wildlife care organisation or the RSPCA (1300 ANIMAL) to find a licensed and vaccinated wildlife rescuer who is trained to handle and care for wildlife.

Bats are a protected species and it is unlawful under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to interfere with a bat colony.

Further information

For more information on work health and safety, visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or contact WHS Infoline on 1300 369 915.

For more information on ABLV or animal health, visit Biosecurity Queensland's website at www.daff.qld.gov.au or phone 13 25 23.

For more information on ABLV and human health, visit Queensland Health at www.health.qld.gov.au or phone 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

For more information about bats and environmental issues, including safe netting and damage mitigation permits, visit the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection at <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/> or phone 13QGOV (13 74 68).



Note: If an un-vaccinated person comes into contact with bat saliva or neural tissue etc., or is bitten or scratched, the post-exposure course of treatment is virtually painless. The only time a bat can be collected is if it is dead or injured and obviously separated from the colony and easily identified as the animal that came in contact with the M.O.P. If the animal that came in contact with the person is not able to be identified then the course of treatment is obviously needed..... Terrie Ridgeway

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	donnaalenoreanthony@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 and instructions.
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

As wildlife carers, we are responsible for the wildlife in our care. If you have any problems or are worried about an animal, contact an experienced carer **immediately**, and follow up. Take the animal to an experienced carer to monitor for a day or two. If an animal does not want to eat, that is not normal. It will die of starvation.

Some of the worst acts of animal cruelty are purported by those who say they 'love' animals.

-as seen on TV animal rescue shows

For a native *Plumbago zeylanica* plant—contact Donna.

The last ones were very happy to get out of their pots and grew very quickly. These are \$2.50 still, but are the last I can get hold of for now.

I babysat Lani's lovely bobuck possum for a week recently. I first saw this little one at about 89g at the beginning of the year. How quickly they grow. Eli was now nearly a kilo of muscle! He grew on a normal diet of milk, 16g Biolac M100 powder made up to 100ml formula, and native vegetation. As Troy said, the secret is filling that aviary daily with so much foliage you can't even see there's a possum in there! Supplements are not a substitute.

Ideally, a huge amount, AND a large variety, of leaves! On a miserable rainy day when I don't want to go further afield, I can easily find 8 different plant species to feed just in my own yard, so get planting, and pruning!!!



HELP
*injured or
orphaned
wildlife*

07 5441 6200

www.wilvos.org.au

***WOULD YOU LIKE A
WILVOS CAR MAGNET
<<< FOR YOUR CAR?***

SIZE: 285mm x 215mm

11 1/2 in X 8 1/2 in

COST: \$10

EMAIL OR PHONE DONNA.

(Contact details inside back page.)

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

This website contains all papers from the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conferences. It is an extremely educational site on so many different species. There is information from the top wildlife veterinarians in Australia so please go through these past conference papers for good worthwhile information.

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

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Wilvos Wildlife Whisperings
MAY 2015



**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

I hope your commitment to our unique Australian wildlife is very rewarding for our animals and for you..

DON'T FORGET to send in your Fauna & Hotline Phone Returns at the end of each month.
EMAIL returns@wilvos.org.au for an electronic form

Please read the following regularly—The Code of Practice under which all wildlife carers work:
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/caring-for-wildlife

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

Visit & subscribe to this website for the latest in wildlife information and resources. Make comments on those subjects available for public consultation. All wildlife carers would benefit from subscribing.