



WILVOS WILDLIFE WHISPERINGS

July 2015



Lisa and David Stafford felt very privileged to see one of their rehabilitated short-eared possums return for a brief visit and were quick enough to get a photo. Alice must have thought it was a safe place to have a family meeting with oldest daughter and joey. Alice has done well out there in the wild and it is always good to see them return occasionally just to show that they are healthy and productive!

Thank you to all those who have returned their membership renewal forms so promptly, and also to those who have generously added a donation. It is most appreciated. Thank you again to those who didn't give Sylvia more unneeded work by losing by their invoice forms!

As we go into the 2015/16 year, I'd encourage people to become more involved in the organization by either nominating themselves for one of the many positions or offering to be trained in one of the positions so they can help out or take on the job the following year. I have been proud to be part of such a progressive organization run by a team of dedicated and happy individuals who always find time to assist each other, and always retain their sense of humour when often overloaded with administrative chores, in days that just aren't long enough!.....Donna.

The new WILVOS website is under construction. Thank you Cathrin for organizing this. Watch this space!

A big 'Thank You' also to Robert Dalla who has maintained our website over the past couple of years. As a computer systems engineer Robert would much rather repair computers, or be involved in software development and programming, so his time spent maintaining our website was most appreciated. If you have a problem with your computer email robertdalla@gmail.com. He always take the time to explain what he is doing so one doesn't feel like a complete 'techno reject'!

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)
PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560.
Ph: (07) 5441 6200
www.wilvos.org.au



Cathrin returned to Norway for a brief well-deserved holiday earlier in the year. We missed you Cathrin and hopefully you now have all the 2014-15 Phone and Fauna Returns in by now. Keep up the good work carers and phone roster volunteers. Those Returns are so important for our wildlife.



Eastern Grey Kangaroo "Chuck" and Swamp Wallaby "Winston" enjoying the sunshine.

Our Sunshine Coast Council is working with residents to control the Indian Myna *Acridotheres tristis*.

Control of pest species and the consequent euthanasia of these animals is always a controversial issue. Euthanasia is not taken lightly and it is a priority that acceptable humane methods are used. It is of very serious concern when these feral birds impact on our native Australian wildlife. The Indian Mynas are an extremely aggressive species that will evict animals from their nests. It is not only other bird species that are affected. Possum species, gliders in particular, are thrown out of their communal homes. Even large parrot species cannot withstand the onslaught of the Indian Myna.

There is a tragic shortage of nesting hollows for our native wildlife due to vegetation clearing throughout Australia's relatively short history. Mynas move into an area and leave the available hollows with a heavy mite infestation which prevents native wildlife from using the sites.

Trapping programs have led to thousands of birds being caught in some areas. We don't want to see those numbers in flocks around the Sunshine Coast region and the longer the problem is neglected, the more the species will populate the area, and more of our native species will be lost. Naturally carrying huge infestations of mites, it is necessary to prevent these feral birds nesting around our homes.

Reporting and monitoring of Indian Myna birds is crucial. If anyone knows of areas where these birds are, could you please notify Sylvia Whiting on 5446 7760 or email her at chairperson@wilvos.org.au. Help in trapping birds in backyards would also be appreciated.

Some people are confused with the difference between Indian Mynas, also called Common Mynas, and our Australian native Noisy Miner *Manorina melanoccephala*.

Just remember **GREY IS GOOD, BROWN IS BAD!**

www.indianmyna.org

www.birdsinbackyards.net

www.indianmynaaction.org.au

Don't underestimate the importance of our help, as wildlife carers, in establishing a future for our native species. Wildlife carers have the benefit of valuable practical experience along with acquired knowledge and research.

Don't forget we weren't the ones to introduce such things as cane toads, myna birds, foxes etc to Australia! Nevertheless, the species to have the most negative impact on Australia has been humans!

About 27,500 introduced plant species have made their way into the country, compared to our 24,000 natives. "This is a pool from which some plants will grow to become weeds," says Dr Richard Groves, researcher at CSIRO Plant Industry. (Australian Academy of Science 2012.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please phone **Rosemary on 5475 4455** if you can help at the **Sunshine Coast Social Dance Club's fundraising dance** at Kawana on 29th August 2015. WILVOS provide a door prize to the value of \$100, man the door, take over the kitchen and serve a delicious supper (Ring Rosemary and ask her what you can cook for the night—savoury or sweet finger food.). In return, this wonderful group of people donate their door takings and an extra donation to WILVOS. So please get cooking and ring Rosemary!

Nambour Collectorama 5th September 2015. Helpers needed. Phone **Rosemary on 5475 4455**.

It's always good to hear of happy outcomes about WILVO members who are relatively new to the vagaries of wildlife rescue.

Maigan at Ningi picked up three little ducklings from a man's shed one night. She took them home and kept them warm and returned to the property in the morning. There were a couple of bored wood ducks wandering around! After some consultation with the lovely Rosemary Dax, the now noisy little ducklings were taken over near the adults. The adults immediately came over and they all lived happily ever after! Let's hope they stick close to Mum and Dad and follow them out of the shed in future.

I remember Julie and Hannah Watson having a similar experience soon after joining WILVOs. Hannah, a junior member at the time, showed great initiative at fishing ducklings out of a drain. Poor little ducklings live a dangerous life.



Great to see Casey Murtagh at our recent induction day. Casey (right) was our WILVOS secretary before heading off to achieve great things in Borneo. Welcome back Casey!

Thanks Terrie Ridgway for sending through this information. It arrived just before the newsletter went to the printers so have squished it in so people can register themselves as individuals for free, to access discounted computer hardware/software. To go to premium membership there is cost involved but, from quick perusal, free registration is all that is needed. www.connectingup.org.au

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

REPEATED FROM APRIL NEWSLETTER AS THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION ON IT AT THE LAST INDUCTION.

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.

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





* Roslyn at Eumundi Pavilion Markets.



* Donna with Zena the python from Jill's Wild Spirit Snakes at the Nambour Garden Expo.

* Rosemary extolling the virtues of our wildlife at the Maleny Wood Expo.



Photos: Terrie Ridgway.

The fun and satisfaction of helping out at Festivals, Markets, Nambour Garden Show, Noosa Show, World Environment Day etc is enormous. I love meeting people and answering questions and perhaps encouraging somebody to help an animal next time they see one in trouble, or even to join up and become a member. The adults and the children are equally fascinated with our beautiful wildlife. I must say I do love to spend the day with the other WILVOS volunteers. We always have fun but we work hard and then there are the other environment and wildlife groups to meet and talk with. I have been doing it for long enough now so that there are always so many friends to catch up with and always something new to learn.... Terrie Ridgway.

A big 'thank you' to all our wonderful helpers on stalls. Thank you to Jill Zimmerman of Wild Spirit Snakes for bringing along her two beautiful pythons. Not to mention rescuing an injured snake at the showgrounds that day. Don't miss Jill's workshop at her home the first Sunday in September. Those who attended Jill's last morning at her house all wanted it to go for longer so have all your questions ready for the 6th September. You can email through questions in advance if you wish. "What do I do if I find an injured water dragon?" etc.....Donna

Q Fever is getting media coverage at the moment. It is more prevalent in times of drought. Veterinarian Dr Anne Fowler always recommends at her training workshops that wildlife carers be vaccinated. It is a micro-organism mainly carried by cattle, sheep and goats. It can also be carried by cats, dogs, birds, macropods, reptiles, arthropods—in fact just about any animal.

With flu like symptoms, Q Fever may not initially be diagnosed. It can be treated with antibiotics when caught early. Of the approximate 500 cases registered in Australia annually, almost half are in Queensland.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-11/push-for-new-vaccination-campaign-against-deadly-q-fever/6608656>

How incredibly stupid is the human race. \$148 for a bottle of Essence of Kangaroo—the male enhancement pill gaining popularity on the Asian market! Running out of rhino horn and tiger penis so there is a need to find some other substitute to sell to the gullible? Some products claim to use concentrated kangaroo meat powder, from various body parts, while others just use the name 'kangaroo' as a gimmicky name to go with their 'herbs and spices'!

When pharmacies began selling similar products in Australia some years ago, some claiming to use powdered kangaroo testicles, it was actually illegal. Approvals had been given for some products to be 'export only' but it was illegal to sell domestically! Has the TGA now approved these products?

Oh well...off to harass the pharmacies now!

Our wildlife in this world suffers terribly at the hands of humans. What is going to happen to the American dentist who allegedly killed Cecil the lion on his hunting expedition. Will only the locals be charged? The only regret the hunter had was that the lion that he bow-and-arrowed and then shot was famous! Grrrrrrr...

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 54 362 340**

Rosemary and Lyn are desperate for phone roster volunteers so your help would be appreciated. People have to stop doing it from time to time for various reasons and replacements are needed, or Rosemary ends up doing the shifts.

In the last newsletter I meant to acknowledge both Jamie Slaven at Kiel Mountain and Tavis Keen at Palmwoods and thank them for their time volunteering. Though unable to go on roster at the moment, I know your time will be just as valuable educating your youngsters on wildlife!

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc AGM

24th August 2015. 7.30pm
60's & Better Hall Nambour
Supper provided

All those holding positions on the committee and management team will stand down and members will then be elected for the 2015/16 year.

Enclosed please find the Proxy/Nomination forms. Nominations need to be in at least two weeks prior to the AGM date. Return these to the PO Box address or scan and email to secretary@wilvos.org.au

RSVP to secretary@wilvos.org.au for catering arrangements and so you can be notified should there be a change of venue or time, if they lose the key again!

WILVOS have had plenty of positive media over the past months. Totally Wild aired two shows each with Jill and her reptiles, Sylvia and Donna with a variety of wildlife (Ranger Stacey said she had never been surrounded with so many interesting animals before—well that echidna was a winner!), and Kimberley in her segment showing what a great contribution young WILVO members can make to the wildlife cause.

In Salt magazines' tenth anniversary edition, the editors wished to revisit their favourite stories from that time. It was lovely to see Jane, the same reporter, revisit Sylvia's place and publish a lovely story with a delightful photo of Samuel, the short-eared possum now in Angela Duncan's care.



Recommended: Pizzey & Knight Birds of Australia.
Digital Edition.

*Nevenks, Sylvia,
Donna & Rosemary
at Slovenian
Consulate opening.
Photo: Lyn Lovell.*

Congratulations to Nevenka Golc-Clarke on becoming the Honorary Consul for the Queensland Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia in Caloundra recently. It was an honour to attend the official opening and reception

I must admit the extent of my knowledge of Slovenia extended to the fact that about twenty years ago I bought beautiful dining room chairs, with kangaroos carved on them, that were manufactured in Slovenia! It was fascinating to research this country and discover what an incredible place it is. It is the third most forested country in Europe and has the best water supply of any country in Europe, with beautiful rivers, lakes and an impressive underground water supply.

We were treated to the most exquisite traditional Slovenian food at the reception. Pastries were flown up from Sydney and delicatessen foods brought across from Toowoomba. I think I'd like to visit Slovenia!.....Donna

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

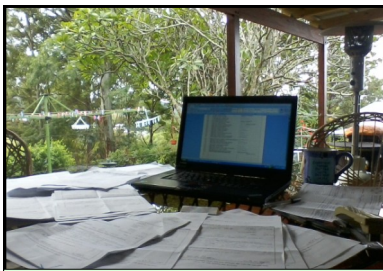
This website contains all papers from the Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conferences. It is an extremely educational site on so many different species. There is information from the top wildlife veterinarians in Australia so please go through these past conference papers for good worthwhile information.

The 10th Anniversary Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation conference will be in Melbourne 1st – 4th August 2016.

Once again we are hoping to be able to arrange to have the amazing wildlife veterinarian Dr Howard Ralph come up for another training weekend. It looks like he is booked out for the rest of the year but hopefully early next year it will be possible.

The quote we received was \$50 per day or \$85 for two days per person. WILVOS will continue to provide free workshop training even though it is recommended that we charge our members. Having tried both charging and not charging the level of attendance is much the same. I think everyone knows my thoughts on wildlife carers who don't care enough to expand their knowledge!

.....Donna



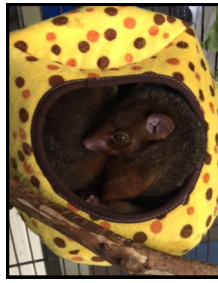
It's a busy time of year for our secretary but Leslie Ayling thinks she has found the perfect workplace on her new deck. Life is always made more interesting with the occasional possum visit. Too bad about the rest of the family! No room left for them!



...and while on the subject of Leslie—last newsletter I just missed out on telling everyone how proud we were when Leslie received a Nicklin Award for Services to the Community. This lady has been volunteering for our wildlife for so many years, in practical hands-on caring and is always ready to help in many of the other aspects of the WILVOS organization. Thank you Leslie.

Thank you to Elizabeth Sawyer and the Sunshine Coast Charity Sewing Group for sewing us some great pouches and release bags.

I'm sure Paul will feel safer when the boxes and dveys are in bags on the way to release!



If you want to purchase a possum 'cave' for your possum/s (\$5), or a Snugglesafe microwaveable heatpad (\$40), email or phone Donna. The WILVOS bulk buying saves on postage costs. For those that express concern over the use of microwaves, I think I do more damage to my body working on my computer with this newsletter than I do in heating up Snugglesafes for my wildlife! I don't know how I lived without them. Ross did mention at the induction that human equivalent products are usually cheaper, as they are. I checked out the equivalent of the Snugglesafe in the UK, but although still rigid and half the price it is not bite proof. I like the safety of a good strong product.



The lead-up to getting the newsletter to the printers is always a challenge. Everyone knows I leave things to the last minute and there are always no shortage of interruptions in my home. This time the challenges excelled themselves.

The routine is that we have the induction/new carers workshop/phone training from 10am to 2pm, optimistically hoping we can get out by 2.30pm and get home to our wildlife. After new members join up Sylvia goes home and updates the phone contact and members lists. I start thinking, 'Gee, I'd better get into this newsletter'.

Anyway last Sunday when Sylvia arrived at the hall where the induction day was to be held, the key had been lost. I finally found urgent messages from Sylvia when I checked my phone to see how late I was running. Hearing of the key saga I said I'd retrace my journey back home and drag out twenty chairs and folding tables, put the urn on etc. It was a big day with almost twenty people in attendance. Luckily I had left my home all tidy, but it was soon strewn with WILVOS paperwork.

Sunday night I was too exhausted to contemplate the newsletter and lying out in the backyard with my macropods was a more inviting scenario. Thank you to the lovely ladies who washed and wiped up the coffee/tea cups.

Then on Tuesday a call came from the Wildlife Hospital at the RSPCA Wacol. Could they drop off 4 brushtail possums, 3 ringtail possums and a rednecked wallaby? Well, a wildlife carer is hardly going to say they are 'too busy'! Aaaaggghh... when the lovely driver arrived some hours later the numbers had grown, so 9 animals had to be found new homes. Thank you to our lovely willing WILVO carers all were rehomed in no time. It just ate up the day organizing it.

Great news to hear Rob Bland is recovering after the very lengthy operation on his thoracic chordoma...its been a long painful journey and still is but Rob is up and walking each day with his walking stick. Also, he has the support of his lovely family. Don't forget to buy a calendar when they are printed!

Support Rare Cancers Australia at the site below.

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

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	donnalenoreanthony@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 pomonarozzie@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 pomonarozzie@bigpond.com

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

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

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. All wildlife carers would benefit from subscribing. WHA has the most up-to-date information available on wildlife health.



*HELP
injured and orphaned
wildlife*

Wildlife Volunteers Assoc Inc (WILVOS)



PH: (07) **5441 6200** 24 hrs
PO Box 2555 Nambour West Q 4560
www.wilvos.org.au



*HELP
injured or
orphaned
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07 5441 6200

www.wilvos.org.au

Spread the word! Collect some of the WILVO business cards to hand out to people when you collect wildlife or leave some cards with your local vet. Contact Donna for any of the above.

WILVO car magnets are available for \$10 and people are responding well when seeing the phone number on our cars. If we encourage everyone to put the number in their mobile phone it helps our wildlife immensely.

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

Print Post approved
PP100019524
Wilvos Wildlife Whisperings
JULY 2015



**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

I hope your commitment to our unique Australian wildlife is very rewarding for the wildlife and for you. Thank you to those who attended the last induction and adapted to the last minute change of venue!

A few more tips from Dr Anne Fowlers workshops earlier in the year:

Put the chick's food on a mirror so they can see themselves eating

Stand some chopsticks up in the food if chick would normally have a 'leggy' mum

Chicks should double their weight in the first week

If chicks get food on their faces, clean immediately. Otherwise they won't be clean until new feathers grow, and that uses more of their extra precious protein

Thawed out frozen peas and corn are good weaning food.....spiders are very nutritious

Keep food in fridge for no longer than 24 hours

.....and yes I love those pool noodles cut to size and put at the bottom of the basket/cage for birds that are weak, but still want to perch. Gives them grip and gets their bottom off the floor.....Donna

