

WILVOS WILDLIFE WHISPERINGS

NOVEMBER 2015

A SAFE & HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR WILVO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Sincere thanks to last years Management Team and welcome to the 2015/16 team members. We are looking forward to another happy and productive year.

It is great to see people return to continue their hard work in the various positions. If you can help at all in any of these facets, or even maybe be a trainee for the job next year??? please contact the relevant team member.

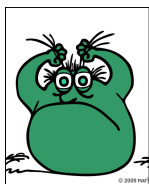


Photo: Sandra Platz

Chairperson Sylvia Whiting OAM has her hands full as always! The first five macropods are fed while the others patiently await their turn in the next door paddock.

This superwoman is always there when needed. When Jeanette Pascoe had to go into hospital at short notice, Sylvia was immediately at her door taking her eleven birds into care.

Jeanette, we wish you a speedy recovery, as do the birdlife of the Sunshine Coast!



You don't wish to be on the Carers Contact list anymore??? Don't tell the milkman, the postman or the ice-cream man. Email or phone Sylvia Whiting direct - as it states on the front of the Contact List. Our phone volunteers don't want to give out the name of someone holidaying in Antarctica.

CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME AGAIN!

1pm Sunday 29th November 2015

Yandina Historic House (roundabout near Ginger Factory)

Devonshire Tea supplied for those who RSVP

If you wish to eat there beforehand they have a very inexpensive but lovely *light quiche & salad* or *soup & toast* lunch available.

RSVP to Donna enquiries@wilvos.org.au or text/phone 0413 861 7575
by 23rd November 2015

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

Parent Raised Babies



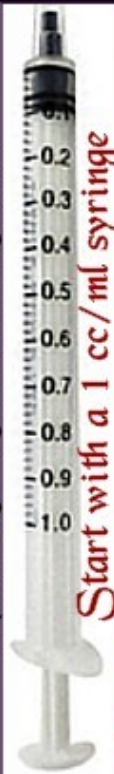
Cockatiel Chick Growth Chart

Note: Chicks will vary in weights



- 1 The chick should gain its hatch weight each day
- 2 Weigh the same time each day
- 3 Weight gain will slow down once pinfeathered
- 4 Weight may drop when fully feathered (Fledging Age)

Sharing some good tips I've learned
There may be a time when you may have to feed a new hatch or assist feed one in the nest
Refer to the chart to compare the development of the chick/baby. The development will be the same for ALL babies but the weights may be less or more depending on genetic background



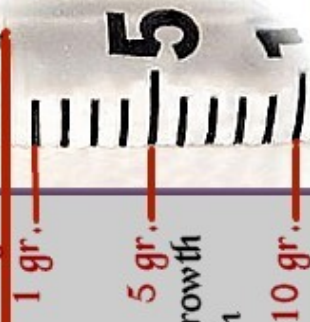
Start with a 1 cc/ml syringe

Each line = 1 gram in weight



A scale that weighs in Grams

A scales is essential to keep track of: weight, growth and how much to feed



Hand-Feeding from day 1



Feed til crop is just rounded

If intestines look dark feed fluids

Note: Be very careful
It is easy to aspirate the baby
Place the tip of the syringe on edge of the beak, and s-l-o-w-l-y release the food. The tongue will move it to the throat

Note: When a chick hatches it does not have to be fed for the first 12+ hours. It is digesting the absorbed yolk. Fluids are all that fed/needed during this time.
Don't panic if they are not feeding at 1 st



REST IN PEACE

The loss to our wildlife will be felt with the passing of Victorian's Denise Garratt in September and



Queensland's Angelique West in October. Both these ladies were so dedicated and committed to the care of our native animals and educating others about wildlife. Their regular presence will be missed at the next Australian National Wildlife Conference in Victoria. These conferences enable welcome, though brief, catch-ups with other carers all around Australia and we all love to put names to faces and obsessively talk about our native animals for a few days.

Last year Sylvia and I ran into Angelique on the street on our first day in Hobart, and then Denise on the day after the conference as we were sightseeing further north. When talking to other wildlife carers in these situations, we always feel like we've known each other for ever.

I think all wildlife carers feel a personal loss at such times. Our sympathies to Denise and Angelique's families and friends. You will both be sadly missed.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

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

Always ask for help. Your questions are always welcomed. We all continue to learn through asking.

One of our members at Coolum, Amy, who joined earlier in the year had a very interesting time on her first phone roster duty. A call came about a bat on the ground in Melbourne. Showing great initiative, Amy was on to it! Her partner googled wildlife groups in Melbourne and Amy called me to check that she was doing the right thing. Within half an hour a rescuer was on the way to pick up the animal.

Great work!



WILD FORAGE Mineral Supplement Donna Anthony

I am very reluctant to get excited about 'wonder products', that are endorsed after being used successfully once or twice, but this is one that proves itself time and time again. Along with Oxbow Critical Care, or Vetafarm Crittacare, it is a 'must have' in my animal medical kit.

A few years ago, Woombye Vet, Charlotte, suggested trying this on a kangaroo that was very emaciated. Since then I have used it on numerous animals with great success, even in cases of diarrhoea. I bought it direct from the Townsville supplier, after googling for more information. Yes, it comes from the peat bogs of Austria if I remember rightly!

I was recently very puzzled when a possum was brought to me after a couple of weeks in care. I couldn't understand why this little furball of 200grams shouldn't be drinking and eating with gusto. I felt that the problem could be nutritional—maybe she had been off her dead Mum for a long time and then hadn't drunk and eaten as she should? We have to depend on our instincts a lot with wildlife care, and learning to understand and read our wildlife is what we do!

While pondering on a plan of attack, and reluctant to get the little short-eared possum on a merry-go-round of medications, I was speaking on the phone to fellow wildlife carer, Chloe Stokes, explaining that I was scratching my head on what to do with this animal that had just arrived. "Give her some of that magic mud, Donna!", says Chloe.

Of course! I had given some to Chloe last year for a debilitated adult possum and it worked wonders, as it did with a later younger possum that she felt needed a boost.

I added Wild Forage and Oxbow Critical Care and a Probiotic to this little bobuck's next feed. Kamala attacked that lid of grey, ghastly looking milk like a maniac. Whatever minerals were in there, they were needed! The fast turnaround of that little bobuck was nothing short of miraculous.

On the bottle of Wild Forage it says "For Animal Treatment Only". Ooooooh, but I am tempted!!!

I must also mention that part of the reason this possum survived was thanks to Terrie Ridgway, a long-term flying fox carer, who has just launched into possum caring also. Terrie was given this animal and within 24 hours knew there was something seriously wrong. Her prompt action saved this animal from getting to the point of no return. The possums are lucky to have you, Terrie!

PS: The search is still on for anyone who has a female bobuck to introduce to 'Gumnut'. Contact Terrie.

REQUEST FROM AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

When we receive wildlife from the wildlife hospital we get a 'pink slip' with an **Accession Number** and the animal details.

At the end of each month, when you do your **WILVOS Monthly Fauna Return**, if there is any wildlife that came from the wildlife hospital please email (preferably) or phone the wildlife hospital and give them the **Accession Number** and details—'died' or 'released' 'or passed to another carer'. Please give the next carers name and details so this is noted on the hospital records. This means that that person is then registered on their database as a wildlife carer.

The pink slip should be passed on with the animal when it is passed to another carer, even if it goes through a number of carers.

Many thanks.....Donna

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE HOSPITAL DETAILS:

hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au or phone 5436 2340

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF FAUNA RECORDING:

It is part of your duty as a wildlife carer to send in your fauna returns each month. (preferably by email—email returns@wilvos.org.au for a form and details of how to electronically submit same.)

This applies to **bat carers** and to **snake carers** also. Our hotline takes the calls so these have to be included on WILVOS Phone and Fauna returns

Every animal counts. When figures are requested from other channels we need to have numbers and exact location to help provide for animals of all species.

Everyone is concerned about the impact of feral animals in Australia.

A couple visited me recently and were telling me of their trip out west and how awful it was to see so many feral cats around the countryside.

The irony of it was these two people were standing there with an exquisite female squirrel glider that their cat had just killed. "It's always killing them." !!! They thought maybe I could save the two little pinkie joeys in mums pouch. Both were on deaths door with teeth marks in their abdomens.

I was so angry, but had to take the time to explain that we in suburbia and in rural locations can make a difference. Our cats are feral if they are out of our yard. Every night there are millions of domesticated cats out killing our wildlife. Try to tell me that these cats are not feral?

Each year I find it more difficult to to be diplomatic as I explain the reality of the situation and the seriousness of the responsible pet ownership issue.

Our pets deserve better and our wildlife deserve better.
.....Donna

EMAIL DONNA FOR WILDLIFE SUPPLIES



Photo: Angie Duncan

NAMBOUR COLLECTORAMA

**This Saturday 7th
November 2015**

**Phone Rosemary on 5475
4455 if you can help**

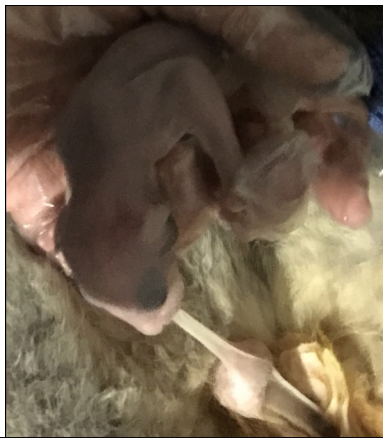
OUR THANKS TO LAURIE & TOM WALL FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF WILVOS BY PROVIDING US WITH A STALL AT EACH FABULOUS COLLECTORAMA.

PHONE ROSTER VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS DESPERATELY NEEDED

WILVOS provide a truly remarkable service to the community through our 24 hour hotline. This is due to the dedication and commitment of our phone roster volunteers. All carers are asked to please do just one shift a month to help Rosemary fill that phone roster with names. It would be so easy if everyone just contributed a little of their time. This is the first step in the rescue of our wildlife and is just as important as the hands-on caring side. Maybe not as rewarding but then it is not about us is it? Is it? It is about caring for the future of our wildlife and helping those animals in distress.

Please phone Rosemary on 5447 4455 if you can help in this upcoming busy time. Oh for a few more Rosemarys. That lady does so much!

Thank you also to Lyn Lovell who has been such a help to Rosemary with getting the rosters out to the volunteers and efficiently keeping everyone updated on the constant changes. Not to mention taking on the challenge of bird co-ordinator. **CARERS, please email in those birds and possum updates each Sunday**



Photos: Donna Anthony



Meg was brought into care late at night on the first of September with her still warm mother that had been killed by a car. The teat was still firmly in mouth with a balloon of milk almost halfway down the teat. Meg was 66g and hasn't had one hiccup while in care, just a little sleep deprivation for me. A beautiful little brushtail now over 250g.

It makes such a difference when they are brought into care immediately and mother is still warm. The early photos had to be clicked off very quickly so the quality and lighting aren't too great!

About a fortnight later, a not-so-fortunate smaller pinkie came in, but he had extensive abrasions over his body, having been found on the bitumen not far from his mother. It has been a tough year for possums.

It is always good to hear all the successful release stories. Alana, released many years ago by Leslie Ayling at Kay and Lindsay's property outside Eumundi, has been spotted with her eighth joey! Terrie Ridgway has also made some great observations on possums released at her Black Mountain property. Being released with a possum box makes a big difference for these animals. Habitat destruction affects the housing situation as much as the food situation, so a familiar home must aid in return to the wild....Donna

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

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

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

www.indianmyna.org

www.birdsinbackyards.net

www.indianmynaaction.org.au

Photo: Julie Watson



Julie just had to lift the lid to see how these three ringtails were positioned in the box, as it didn't look too comfortable for the one with leg hanging out! Another slept elsewhere.

They were there short-term until release, so Julie provided them with dreys and they soon chose them as preferred accommodation.

Be prepared for summer

Have the ice packs ready in the freezer for those hot days. Put old timber sleepers on top of metal roofs to prevent the heat, or masses of palm fronds, on your aviaries. Check where the sun is in relation to your aviaries, at different times of the day.

Stand in your aviary and check to make sure it feels cool on the hottest day..

Those pool noodles cut to size really do make the best perches for rehabilitating birds!

THANK YOU to the SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL whose 3 year grant of \$10,000 yearly has met administrative costs such as the phone hotline expenses for the past year. WILVOS are always complemented on the fact that there is a person there responding to calls, not a machine. Great work hotties!!!

THANK YOU TO ALL

As another year has almost passed, it is time to say thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to help our challenged wildlife.

Development is inevitable in our beautiful part of the world, but with it comes the tragedy of habitat destruction. Our native animals cannot be saved without the help of many different people.

Initially it is a caring member of the public who rings our hotline or takes an animal to the vet - Our wonderful hotliners give advice and numbers of nearby carers - People help with pickups -Our carers pick up and rehabilitate—Our generous veterinarians give our wildlife their time, expertise and necessary diagnostics and medications.



Photo: Angie Duncan

It's a good time of year to catch up on reading! Check out the National Conference past papers i.e. Rehabilitating Birds Dr Phillipa Mason – Healesville Sanctuary . NWRC 2005

Release of our rehabilitated wildlife can be a challenge, especially when one animal comes in as a lone species. Priority must be given to the future welfare of the animal.

When little furless Jimna, the red-legged pademelon was brought to me, the Pomona family gave me precise directions on where they had found the dead mother on the side of the road. As Jimna grew, I was again reminded of how 'the smaller the macropod the more highly developed the instincts are' —or so it appears to me. One unfamiliar sound, and this little animal disappeared into the undergrowth in my garden.

It became obvious that moving him on to a pre-release site would be too stressful to him so I made the decision to hard release him back to his old stomping ground. I didn't like to release him alone (ok I'm allowed a little human emotional leeway!) so decided his best mate Kimbo, the swamp wallaby could go with him. It was a swamp wallaby area also, though Kimbo had come from further away. Knowing both these species can be pretty 'sparky' at this stage of development I really expected that they would hit the ground running when we opened up their car carry bags.

I used good old Earth Google to suss out the area where mother pademelon was found. On driving to the spot we found just the right road to access. One of those rough tracks into the forest that state "No Cars, No Trucks, No Motor Bikes, No This, No That, and NO ENTRY". Ideal! Once I had driven in as far as possible, and there was enough room to manoeuvre a 'turn around', we stopped and removed the bags from the backs of the seats. Noone was more surprised than I was that these animals didn't want to rush out of their bags. They just sniffed the air and were remarkably relaxed to what I had expected. They then sauntered off and leisurely inspected the area. They were definitely on alert but just seemed to know this was home. I was content I'd done the best thing for the animal.

It had been over twenty years since I had had a red-legged pademelon in care, so Jimna gave me the chance to learn more about this species and their behavior. Little did I know that not long after this, I would have an orphaned red-necked pademelon brought to me. Pipsqueak, though furred, is still such a mini macropod!.....Donna



Photo: Donna Anthony



Photo: Donna Anthony

It seems to be an automatic question for people to ask how old an animal is. I find it quite amusing going by weight, length of legs etc I always tell Sylvia that using those calculations, she'd be 15 and I'd be 100 years of age. Though not heavy I am long and lean in comparison with her little and lean!!! Donna

Remind family and friends that materials such as baling twine and synthetic fibre from fertilizer bags etc can be lethal for birds. They use it as nesting material but it becomes entwined around legs of adults and chicks.

A reminder if you are on the Contact List you are expected to pick up any wildlife in distress. You can then contact people on the List to take the animal. The priority is getting the animal into care—whether it be bird, marsupial, or reptile....any native wildlife.

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. (WILVOS) Team for 2015/16

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

ie Membership enquiries to Sylvia

Sylvia, also our Chairperson, is always available to anyone who has any worries or complaints, or just needs advice—in dealing with animals or people!

**** 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.norean.thompson@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/Phone Training: Roslyn Leslie 54850056 pomonaroozie@bigpond.com

Co-Ordinators: Birds: Lyn Lovell wilvosbirds@gmail.com
Marsupials: Mae Connor wilvomarsupials@hotmail.com
Macropods: Sylvia Whiting chairperson@wilvos.org.au
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

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

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

Newsletter Editor/Media/PR: Donna Anthony 0413 861757 newsletter@wilvos.org.au

Phone Roster Co-Ordinators: Rosemary Dax 54754455 lynlovell@gmail.com
Lyn Lovell 0421 853007

(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.)

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

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

Don't forget! If you can help in any way, please contact the appropriate people...all help is welcome!

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month. All are welcome to attend.

It was good to see the Yandina Street Fair had a laser light show instead of the usual fireworks this year. Let's hope this idea becomes more popular. The dogs and cats will be very grateful, not to mention the wildlife!



Birds often come to grief skimming across swimming pools. Marilyn Montague passed on a good suggestion: Float some artificial flowers in the pool, such as the frangipanis often seen in the discount stores.

Thank you Marilyn!

CHRISTMAS TIME IS FRUITCAKE TIME!

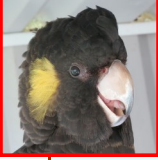
Donna's easy recipe for busy carers:
Put 1 kg of mixed fruit in a bowl, stir in 2 1/2 cups of pineapple juice, then add 2 cups self raising flour. Mix well and pour into a 20cm cake tin lined with baking paper. Cook on the lowest rack in the oven at 150 degrees for 2 hours.

How easy is that!?

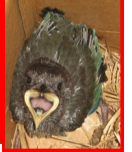
Cool in tin. Delicious. It is recommended that it sit in fridge for two days before eating. What???

Please read the following regularly—The **CODE OF PRACTICE** under which all wildlife carers work. Regulations are needed to protect our native animals.

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



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.



<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.

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

Print Post approved
PP100019524
Wilvos Wildlife Whisperings
NOVEMBER 2015

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Thinking, thinking!!!



Photo: Lindsay Hingston

**HOW MANY FEATHERTAIL GLIDERS
ARE UNDER THAT POUCH???**



If you have to pick up a feather-tail glider:
Turn a pillowcase inside out, no loose threads, put in plenty of nectar filled flowers/
chunk of apple with some soft foliage and a piece of polar fleece for them to snuggle into— as they get cold quickly.
Fasten with a rubber band. Then find out who else has feather-tails in care.

Don't forget to weigh your birds daily. We do not know he/she is progressing, or how much to feed, unless we weigh regularly. Weight recording is of utmost importance for all wildlife in care.